VALLEY VOICE

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County to File Unfair Labor Practices Charge Against SEIU

Catherine Doe

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) voted 5-0 at their August 26 meeting to file an Unfair Labor Practices Charge against SEIU. The decision came after an impassioned presentation by County Counsel Kathleen Bales-Lange that described SEIU's inappropriate conduct during this year's negotiations.

SEIU and the county were in negotiations from March to the end of July, when the two sides finally agreed on a contract. The new contract covers 2800 workers and represents SEIU bargaining units 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7. The agreement includes a 3% base wage increase and reinstates the sick leave buy-back program. Pay increases started in the August 10 pay period and showed up in the workers' paychecks on September 2.

Bales-Lange said that there was no single smoking gun but a totality of circumstances that convinced her to ask the BOS to file charges against SEIU with the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB).

Bales-Lang started her presentation to the board with, "When is enough, enough?" a phrase coined in June by workers Kermit Wullschleger and Linda Castillo to express their frustration over the disparity between management raises and salaries compared to those of the rank-and-file. Bales-Lange repeated the phrase eight times during her presentation to emphasize her point that the BOS and county negotiators had put up with enough and that it was time to file charges.

Teneya Johnson, an SEIU organizer, encourages the board to not file charges against SEIU and try to repair relations. Kathleen Bales-Lange, county counsel, pictured in the background, said she has heard that all before.

She also invoked the phrase "Community First," a motto that SEIU local 521 came up with to highlight the need to take care of the community of Tulare County workers. Bales-Lange implied that the union does not practice what it preaches.

"They had paid professionals from SEIU and paid employee negotiators. This was not a battle of David and Goliath," said Bales-Lange.

According to a county press release, "county counsel stated that the union engaged in dilatory tactics, harassment and regressive bargaining, which shows an ongoing course of conduct that constitutes bad faith bargaining on behalf of the union and its representatives. Some of the bad faith activities of union representatives presented by counsel include being unprepared for bargaining, making false and misleading statements, and attempting to bypass county negotiators to deal directly with the board of super-

SEIU continued on **8 »**

Five Air Carriers Look to Serve Visalia Market

Steve Pastis

The City of Visalia's Air Service Subcommittee is expected to decide soon which of five airlines will provide service to the city's airport. After filing for a 45-day extension, the decision on which company to recommend to the Visalia City Council is now scheduled for September 15. The current air service contract expires at the end of the month.

The committee, which includes Vice Mayor Warren Gubler, Council Member Bob Link, City Manager Mike Olmos and Visalia Airport Manager Mario Cifuentez, is considering airlines based on their reliability, convenience and "the ability of the local traveler to get into major hubs at a reasonable price," according to Cifuentez.

Five proposals are more than the city usually receives for its air service.

"The subsidy amount is enticing to a lot of companies that are starting up or moving to an area," Cifuentez explained. The Essential Air Service program, funded by the federal government, provides these subsidies to guarantee air service to about 165 communities across the country, including Visalia.

The subcommittee has been evaluating proposals from five companies: SeaPort Airlines, Mokulele Airlines, Boutique Air, Wine Country Express and Visalia's current air service provider,

AIRLINES continued on **6 »**

McKay's Point Reservoir would divert water from the Kaweah River (pictured above). The reservoir would be located just over the berm.

McKay's Point Water Storage Proposal Concerns Lemon Cove Residents

Catherine Doe

The Water Bond hasn't even passed yet and additional water storage is already in the works for Tulare County. A 4,000-acre-foot reservoir is being planned south of Woodlake and next to Lemon Cove where the St. Johns River and the Kaweah River split at a location known as McKay's Point. An Indian village used to be located there, and later, from the 1930s to the 1960s, it was a recreational spot for swimming during the day and dancing under the stars at night. Currently the site is inaccessible to the public.

Locals whose wells are going dry due to the gravel mines look at the project with trepidation. McKay's Point Reservoir is intrinsically linked to the Stilwell gravel mine and the two Lemon Cove Projects because the reservoir will be dug in their aquifer and is starting life out as a gravel mine. Not only will it be a gravel mine--but CEMEX will be doing the mining. CEMEX has not been a good neighbor to local landowners and, in a recently released peer review by Tully and Young, CEMEX was found to be possibly at fault for many of Lemon Cove residents' wells going dry.

So how do we know CEMEX will follow the provisions in their conditional use permit and their contract with the owners of the property?

The crucial difference between the Lemon Cove gravel mines and McKay's Point Reservoir is that CEMEX is not running the show, the property owners are. McKay's Point is owned by three veterans in the water industry: Tulare Irrigation District (TID), Consolidated Peoples Ditch Company (CPDC) and Visalia and Kaweah Water Company. All three have owned water rights in the Kaweah River basin since the 1800s. It took CEMEX and the ditch and irrigation companies three years to pound out all the legalities and put them in writing in the contract.

Conversely, the owners of the land underneath the Stillwell Project and Lemon Cove Project leased their property to CEMEX, and then washed their hands of the matter. Why the property owners, along with CEMEX, were not

WATER continued on **7 »**

Visalia Chamber Names Gail Zurek New CEO

Staff Reports

Gail Zurek

Gail Zurek, the tourism and marketing manager for the Visalia Convention and Visitors Bureau, has been selected as the new chief executive officer of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce.

Zurek has been with the Visalia Convention and Visitors Bureau since November 2013. Her position involves implementing the bureau's tourism, public relations, media and group tour sales efforts and overseeing the office.

Previously, she was president of her own firm, Arrowhead Communication, LLC, providing marketing and public relations consulting to businesses and nonprofits. Concurrently, she was the area director for the Better Business Bureau of Northern Indiana.

She worked with the University of Chicago in various capacities for eight years, leading to her final position as the executive director for career development with the Harris School of Public Policy Studies - Career Development.

Zurek holds a bachelor of arts in communication from California Lutheran University.

"Gail has a lot of enthusiasm and brings to the CEO position a new, fresh perspective," said Judy Fussel, chairman of the chamber's board of directors. "She has a strong background in social media and marketing so she will help us explore new avenues and take the chamber into a new era."

Zurek takes the reins as CEO on September 22.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Stoned

In a news release in July of this year, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia declared that rising temperatures attributed to global climate change might be a contributing factor in the increase of people who develop kidney stones. In a study of more than 60,000 adults and children who were diagnosed with kidney stones between 2005 and 2011, a hospital team led by pediatric urologist and epidemiologist Dr. Gregory Tasian compared these diagnoses with daily temperature data.

"Although 11% of the U.S. population has had kidney stones," Tasian said, "most people have not. It is likely that higher temperatures increase the risk of kidney stones in those people predisposed to stone formation." Tasian explained that warmer temperatures foster dehydration, which contributes to higher concentrations of calcium and other minerals in urine that can help form the obstructions.

"Kidney stone prevalence has already been on the rise over the last 30 years," Tasian said, "and we can expect this trend to continue, both in greater numbers and over a broader geographic area, as daily temperatures increase. These findings point to potential public health effects associated with global climate change."

The case histories studied came from patients in five cities--Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles and Philadelphia--and illustrated, apparently, that, as the average annual daily temperature rose above 50 degrees Fahrenheit, the chance of people presenting with kidney stones within 20 days increased in all cities except Los Angeles. Whether this is because Angelenos (in health-conscious California) keep themselves better hydrated than elsewhere, or because Angelenos (in sunny southern California) are unused to much of a change of seasons, I don't know.

But I do know, first-hand, about kidney stones. Passing one was by far the worst pain I have ever endured.

Worse than any childhood mishap or bicycle crash. Worse than any athletic injury--and I'm thinking back to a time when, playing first base, a left-handed batter pulled a rocket of a grounder right at me and the ball, after taking a funny hop, pounded my left kneecap. Worse than the time I was roughed up by being twice washed over the south jetty in Eureka; worse, too, than the time I dropped a massive rock on my hand. Passing a kidney stone was far more painful than the time, after stepping barefoot onto a threaded yarn needle, it entered eye-side first into my heel--replete with nauseating pop--and I instantly, if vocally, started improvising Chuck Berry's trademark duck walk. It was worse than the several months' worth of agony, 20 years ago, it took for both eyeballs to grow because of thyroid disease.

According to my wife--who has not thus far been afflicted--passing a kidney stone is rivaled in painfulness only by childbirth. I was at her side during the arrival of four of our five kids, and even though I helped her deliver our second--at home, alone, and waiting for the midwife--it required my own suffering to more finely tune a true appreciation of the event.

I had always heard that passing a stone was a supremely painful experience, and reasoned that it would only make urination temporarily excruciating. But I was wrong about that, at least in my case: I never felt the stone pass through my urethra; rather, during its eight-hour ureter meander from a kidney to my bladder, enough pain came in regular waves--like the contractions of labor--to render me an honorary woman. Even my mother, who has also delivered kidney stones, voiced a preference for me over them--although this apparently only pertains to the time when I was an infant. I'm held in similar esteem by my wife, except that--conversely--she is still waiting, she says, for me to grow up. For now, though, I'll just declare a solemn vow never to pen such a ghastly paragraph ever again.

One sunny November morning a few years ago, a Sunday, my wife and I awoke with no further expectations than coffee and the newspaper. I suddenly sat bolt upright--as if stabbed in the back--and my wife, giving me a quizzical look, asked what was wrong. Now, she wasn't angry with me, so, knowing I hadn't been stabbed, I rather hopefully ascribed my discomfort to a combination of age and having slept "funny." Except that the pain was not "funny" at all; I found, however, by laying on my right side in a shape approximating an S--breathing slowly and inert as a cadaver--that, with some wishful thinking, it would recede. "I can't stand to see you this way," my wife said. "What way? What the hell is this?" I asked. "Kidney stone," she replied. "It'll pass. I'm going shopping." On her return, horrified to find me worse--slobbering, gibbering and groaning--she immediately spirited me to an urgent care clinic.

Here's what filled the many hours in between: I lay supine, having just managed to roll onto my back, for an eternity--20 minutes--before crawling on all fours, backwards, downstairs to the medicine cabinet. But I found that movement, inexplicably, helped--so I crawled around the house, backwards, until the next wave of pain arrived. Luckily, on this lap, it coincided with a view of the bathroom doorway--so I only had to lunge at the toilet to get there just before heaving. I maintained this routine--except when relief was found only in stillness again--and stood, in the pose of an Egyptian tomb painting, panting.

The Darvocet and four Advils I had earlier downed merely bounced off. My advice? Drink plenty of water and appreciate the women in your life.

— *Joseph Oldenbourg*

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Published by The Valley Voice, LLC.
Publisher/Editor: Joseph Oldenbourg
joseph@ourvalleyvoice.com
Associate Editor/Sales: Steve Pastis (steve@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Staff:
Catherine Doe, writer (catherine@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Tony Maldonado, webmaster (tony@ourvalleyvoice.com)
April Heath Pastis, writer (april@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Louie Luna, sales (louie@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Nancy Vigran, sales (nancy@ourvalleyvoice.com)
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208 W. Main St., Ste. E • Visalia, CA 93291

Political Fix

Catherine Doe

Can This Marriage be Saved?

The debate rages between Tulare County and SEIU.

The county is filing an Unfair Labor Practices charge against the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) for bad faith bargaining. Kathleen Bales-Lange, county counsel for the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS), explained that there is no smoking gun but an accumulation of facts that lead her to ask the BOS to file charges. The charges stem from allegations that SEIU engaged in dilatory tactics, harassing conduct and regressive bargaining that delayed negotiations and cost the employees three pay periods of a salary increase. Below are the six charges filed against SEIU and a summary of each side's position.

The following synopsis comes from the Statement of Charge that the county will be filing with PERB and some of Bales-Lange's presentation given at the board meeting. It also quotes the board chairman, Supervisor Phil Cox. Date discrepancies were found while compiling this information, thus, after the county and SEIU review their documents and negotiation notes, their positions may slightly change.

Failure to Prepare for Bargaining Sessions

The County's position:

At the July 7 negotiations, SEIU employees were unprepared for the meeting and had to stop negotiating in order to caucus. Supervisor Phil Cox said that it appeared to him that there was dissention between the rank-and-file employees and their appointed negotiators. The county is also alleging that SEIU based their contract proposals on an inaccurate number of employees, even though the county had provided SEIU with the correct number. According to Ms. Bales-Lange, SEIU was more than 900 employees off.

SEIU's position:

According to Ryan Wilson, a nine-year employee of the county and an employee negotiator, when negotiations began on July 7 the employees realized that they were not on the same page. They had to stop the meeting to caucus in order to present a unified counter proposal to the county's 3% one-year contract offered on June 26.

The county did provide SEIU with the number of employees that the union represented, but there was a disagreement about the accuracy of their number. High turnover in employees has plagued the county for years. Joanne Salazar, an SEIU representative, said that 954 workers left during a two-year period and that the number of employees their union represented was in constant flux. There was also a discrepancy in how many actual positions existed versus funded positions. Some of those vacancies became permanent and SEIU needed a more accurate number to formulate their proposals.

Failure to Make Proposals or Counterproposals

The County's position:

At the first negotiation meeting on March 19, SEIU requested voluminous information that it claimed was for a proposal on safety. During another negotiation meeting on June 9, SEIU again advised the county that it would make a safety proposal. SEIU never made a proposal on safety.

SEIU's position:

The SEIU did ask for the information and did not make a safety proposal. SEIU did not make a safety proposal because they felt that the county should be responsible for the employees' safety, not the union. SEIU had expressed concern during the negotiations about employee safety when going into older buildings or buildings where dangerous chemicals are used. They suggested that the workers need more training on what to do if exposed to dangerous chemicals or asbestos and that the county needs to have in place formal safety procedures, especially for the county's custodial staff.

Burdensome Information Requests

The County's position:

At the first negotiation session on March 19, SEIU made a request for 55 items that took staff hours to collect and comprised of 700 pages of which SEIU never used at the bargaining table. Part of this material was to make a proposal on safety that never materialized. During a subsequent negotiation meeting, SEIU made a second information request that took 40 hours of staff time and consisted of 885 pages of information. Some of the information duplicated what SEIU requested during the first meeting. At the July 1 negotiation meeting, SEIU requested information that the county had already provided during four previous meetings.

SEIU's position:

When Ms. Salazar received the volumes of paperwork delivered by the county, she thought it was a litigator's trick. Her opinion was that the county was burying the important data she needed to make the employees' contract proposals under a mountain of paperwork so it would be difficult for her to find the numbers she needed. On several occasions, the *Valley Voice* asked Ms. Salazar for data but she had either not received the information she requested in a timely manner or she was in the middle of wading through it herself to get to the data she needed.

According to Mr. Wilson, the county has never liked information requests, "but that they need to adapt because that's how negotiations go in other counties." He added that he felt the county was making it more complicated than it needed to be. "They already know what information we are going to ask for. Just make an SEIU folder and keep it updated. What does a 1% wage increase look like? We can't make proposals if we don't have the budgets and salaries," he said. "If they insist on one-year contracts, they should expect it."

False and Misleading Statements

The County's position:

On June 17, during public comment at the Tulare County Board of Supervisor's meeting, employee negotiators, and SEIU staff accused the county of "not putting anything on the table" while bargaining. This statement was inaccurate, as the county had proposed earlier in June a global resolution that included a base salary increase. Bales-Lange also noted that in the petitions given to the BOS at the June 24 evening meeting that the document falsely claimed that the county had not offered a salary increase. Bales-Lange said that a sidebar communication between the county lawyer and SEIU offered a 4% two -year contract salary increase before the June 17 meeting.

During a personal interview with Supervisor Cox, he did not claim that the county had offered a raise, but pointed out that from the beginning that the county put something on the table. Early in the negotiations the county offered to pay for the Animal Control and kennel workers' uniforms. The county also offered to pay for any increase in premiums on health plans with a $1,000 deductable. "That's not nothing," he said.

According to the *Visalia Times-Delta*, Supervisor Cox said, "'they tried to make us look like a bunch of ogres' with statements to union members and to the public that the county wasn't budging or offering any concessions in the negotiations 'which is the farthest thing from the truth.'"

SEIU position:

The county did offer a 4% raise over two years if SEIU dropped all PERB charges, but that offer came two days after the June 24 BOS meeting, when the petitions were already delivered. According to SEIU Employee negotiators Lena Case and Mr. Wilson, there was no official offer on the table including a raise until the June 26 negotiation session, the ninth or tenth meeting out of 12. The county's lawyer had suggested at the June 20 meeting that they would consider a raise if SEIU dropped all PERB charges, but that is where the conversation ended.

At the end of May, a sidebar offer was made by the county lawyer to an SEIU representative with a generous raise for the workers. But the county never followed through on their offer, and SEIU did not pursue it because they didn't want to drop their PERB cases that could pay out millions of dollars to the workers if the county is found guilty.

Mr. Wilson added that the county did put on the table to pay for uniforms and the increase in premiums. But he said that paying for an increase in premiums has been standard procedure the nine years that he has worked for the county and that it would be disingenuous to suggest it was part of the negotiations.

Bypassing County Negotiators/ Direct Dealing with Board of Supervisors

The County's position:

On May 14, Kermit Wullschleger emailed Supervisor Cox requesting to meet with board members regarding the ongoing bargaining. On June 17, SEIU made comments accusing the county of "not putting anything on the table" in bargaining. By making these comments directly to board members, SEIU again was attempting to bypass the county's designated negotiator and bargain directly with the board. According to the *Visalia Times-Delta*, "Cox said that he was contacted at least six times by members of SEIU's negotiating team and then 'they would come to the meetings and bad mouth us and say you won't talk to us.'"

Also on June 17, SEIU staff member Courtney Hawkins said during public comment that he wanted to speak to the board members "as men" about the negotiations. Both of the county's negotiators are female, while the board members are male. By making this gender-derogatory comment, Hawkins was attempting to bypass the county's female negotiators and bargain directly with the male board members.

SEIU position:

Mr. Wullschleger did email Supervisor Cox and request an informal meeting with the supervisors. The goal was for the employees to provide personal testimony about their jobs in private with the supervisors with the understanding that negotiations were not to be discussed. He also wanted to introduce to the board local 521 concept of "Community First."

During the negotiations that Mr. Wullschleger participated in in 2005, there were specific ground rules prohibiting talking to the media or BOS. No such ground rules were established in 2014. When the supervisors refused to meet privately with the employees, the employees made a group decision to give their personal stories and testimonies during public comments at the board meetings.

According to Ms. Salazar, the county's lawyer told her that going in front of the BOS during public comment is a protected activity by law and everyone's first amendment right.

In an emailed statement from Ms. Salazar, she said, "On August 20, 2014, the Public Employees Relations Board published a decision (Sweetwater Union High School District v. Sweetwater Education Association PERB IR-58; Case No. LA-CO-1612E) re-affirming a union's right to distribute information to its membership, engage in picket lines, and to bring public attention to items being bargained. This is at the heart of a union's fundamental right to organize. This is not a new concept, but rather a time-honored paradigm called democracy. SEIU is a union. To us, this means we working people standing together in our communities."

In the matter concerning Mr. Hawkins, he is an SEIU organizer but is not on the negotiating team nor has he attended any of the negotiations sessions. The county's claim that Mr. Hawkins' intent was to bypass the county's female negotiators is conjecture. Mr. Hawkins simply wanted to make a statement during public comment to the BOS and expressed his desire to the board "as men" because they are all men.

Regressive Bargaining

The County's position:

At the June 26 negotiations, SEIU made regressive proposals that would have cost the county more money than proposals SEIU had made previously. A definition of regressive bargaining

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Peer Review Finished on Stillwell Project

Tully and Young concludes that, 'CEMEX cannot be summarily excused from fault.'
CEMEX makes 180-degree turn and starts filling the recharge trenches.

Catherine Doe

A Peer Review of CEMEX' hydrology report was delivered to the Resource Management Agency (RMA) Tuesday, August 26, and concluded that "it was difficult to say CEMEX was without fault" for residential wells going dry. Back in January, four Lemon Cove residents living next door to the Stillwell mine started experiencing dry wells. EMKO Environmental, hired by CEMEX to do their hydrology report, claimed that the wells went dry because of the drought and that CEMEX was not at fault. Tully and Young, a water consulting group, was hired by RMA to review the accuracy of CEMEX' report.

Tully and Young concluded that EMKO Environmental did not have sufficient data to claim that CEMEX was not at fault for the wells going dry.

"Based upon the lack of historic data and reports to provide both context and a complete technical set of facts, the conclusions reached by the (hydrology) report cause-and-affect analysis of this incomplete set of facts appear without merit in many instances. As such, it is not possible to fully place blame on the current drought conditions or other external factors to explain the current groundwater level conditions being experienced by the subject properties. Although the drought is undoubtedly a primary contributing factor, the actions of CEMEX could have caused or at least exacerbated the degraded local groundwater conditions."

During a Tulare County Board of Supervisors meeting in July, four or five Lemon Cove residents and farmers spoke out during public comment.

They all voiced their concern that the CEMEX-hired hydrologist, Dr. Andrew Kopania, did not do the necessary research nor compile the relevant data to make any conclusions. The Tully and Young Peer Report backs up their claims.

After reading Tully and Young's anticipated Peer Review Report, a Lemon Cove resident said that, "it was no surprise that no conclusion could be made from CEMEX' hydrology report. It's a case of lawyeritis, where they are not saying CEMEX did anything bad, and they not saying CEMEX did anything good. Now we are right back to square one and it will be difficult to move forward."

Since the Peer Review Report is several hundred pages long, it is difficult to email. Paper copies are ready to be picked up by anyone interested at the RMA office at the Government Plaza.

A letter from Michael Spata, associate director for RMA, advises that interested parties have until September 30 to submit their comments regarding the Peer Review Report. All responses to the report, letters, public comments and all other documents are being complied in a staff report to be presented during a Tulare County Planning Commission Meeting where everyone will have their say.

> *"My client CEMEX has notified RMA that it intends to begin dewatering the Stillwell mine beginning on or around September 2, 2014 and discharge the pumped water to the adjacent V-ditch."*
> — CEMEX lawyer

Spata's letter continued, "Please provide any written comments by the close of business (5:30pm) on Tuesday, September 30, 2014, to the attention of Michael C. Spata, Associate Director, Tulare County Resource Management Agency (RMA), 5961 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, CA 93277. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Spata by phone at (559) 624-7000, or by sending an email to MSpata@co.tulare.ca.us."

CEMEX to Fix Pumps, Fill Recharge Trenches

The same day that RMA received Tully and Young's Peer Review, another surprising announcement was made.

CEMEX, in a 180-degree turn around, decided to resume filling the recharge trenches next to the Stillwell gravel mine. A letter from CEMEX' lawyer to RMA states, "My client CEMEX has notified RMA that it intends to begin dewatering the Stillwell mine beginning on or around September 2, 2014 and discharge the pumped water to the adjacent V-ditch. To provide an accurate analysis of the effects of dewatering and filling the V-ditch on groundwater levels surrounding the Stilwell property, CEMEX will be installing downhole pressure transducers and dataloggers on its four monitoring wells adjacent to the V-ditch."

Rob Morton, whose residential well has gone dry because of the Stillwell gravel mine, happened to be home when two CEMEX employees showed up at his house to install the datalogger.

His was one of the wells that CEMEX wanted to monitor. One of the men who showed up to install the monitor was Dr. Andrew Kopania, the principal hydrologist that wrote CEMEX' report that exonerated the multinational from any fault.

Morton asked Kopania why CEMEX suddenly decided to fill the recharge trenches. The response was that CEMEX was going to resume mining.

Morton responded by saying that he hoped instead that CEMEX had a change of heart because the residents' wells had gone dry. Kopania quickly corrected himself and said that their reasons for filling the trench were twofold: one to recharge their neighbors' wells, and the other was to dewater the ponds so CEMEX could resume mining.

"It just made me very, very suspicious when I got the letter," said Morton. He had heard that there was no more cobble left in the mine, and if there was, it doesn't make any sense that CEMEX would stop mining for a year when there was money to be made.

Several reasons for CEMEX' sudden interest in dewatering the ponds have surfaced and the mystery thickens.

The projected date to start pumping water into the recharge trench was Tuesday, September 2, but possible trouble with CEMEX' pumps might delay that until Wednesday or longer.

Top 10 Reasons You Should Intern for Congressman Nunes

Congressman Devin Nunes is looking for college interns for the fall and spring semesters to work in his Visalia and Washington, D.C. offices. His current interns drew up a list of reasons to apply:

10. You will encounter political figures whom you have only seen on television.

9. You will never be hungry because the offices have infinite amounts of jelly bellies and pistachios to snack on, and sometimes you'll even get doughnuts.

8. You will have a unique and often comical story to share with your friends and family after every workday.

7. You will constantly be amused by the staff's sense of humor. (Some may call it sophomoric.) You'll get this once you meet Chief of Staff Johnny Amaral.

6. You will become buddies with the Capitol Police, the Sparkletts Water Guy, and Art the Mailman.

5. You will never be bored because you will get to talk to new people on the phone all day and conduct tours for visiting constituents.

4. You will start answering your personal cell phone by saying, "Office of Congressman Nunes."

3. You will become an expert at Google and acquire a whole new government-themed vocabulary.

2. You will always look snazzy because business casual is totally in.

1. You will develop lifelong friendships, and your résumé will look great.

For more information and applications for internships, visit http://nunes.house.gov/constituentservices/internships.htm or call 733-3861.

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HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

Berkeley Lab Study Shows Valley Air Quality Improving

Lynn Yarris

Air quality in California's San Joaquin Valley, which for years has been ranked as one of the worst in the United States, has improved over the past decade and looks to improve even more in the future.

Speaking at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Francisco, chemist Sally Pusede described how efforts to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions have dramatically improved air quality in the Valley over the past decade and should be even more effective over the next ten years. Pusede is an alumna of the research group of Ronald Cohen, a faculty scientist with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) and the University of California (UC) Berkeley.

"Our study showed that NOx reductions in the San Joaquin Valley as the result of implemented controls have dramatically decreased the very large fraction of total aerosol that is ammonium nitrate," Pusede said. "The good news is that in the next ten years, the additional NOx reductions that are expected from new controls on heavy-duty diesel trucks will halve the frequency of days in the Valley on which the air quality standard is exceeded."

Valley air is still not good, as this photo of Bakersfield shows, but it is improving.

According to the American Lung Association, the San Joaquin Valley experiences the worst pollution in the U.S. by small particulate matter (PM2.5) – particles of soot, dust, unburned fuel and matter chemically formed in the atmosphere that are 2.5 micrometers or less in size. While PM2.5 is a wintertime problem, in the summer the San Joaquin Valley is second only to Los Angeles for having the worst ozone pollution levels.

"As a result, extremely poor air quality in the San Joaquin Valley is a year round problem," Pusede said.

Pusede and Cohen, a leading authority on atmospheric chemistry with Berkeley Lab's Environmental Energy Technologies Division, examined 15 years of data on NOx and other emissions, and their chemical products in three key San Joaquin Valley cities – Fresno, Visalia and Bakersfield.

"NOx abundances have fallen steadily over the last 15 years, and patterns in anthropogenic sources result in twofold lower NOx emissions on weekends than weekdays, largely without co-occurring changes in other emissions," Pusede said. "These trends taken together provide a useful constraint on the NOx dependence of the driving chemical mechanisms of both ozone and aerosol."

Pusede and Cohen used this NOx constraint to interpret trends in wintertime PM2.5 over the last decade in San Joaquin Valley where a large portion of the total aerosol mass is ammonium nitrate. They also looked at the impact on the formation of ozone, which is a product of nitrogen oxide chemistry.

"We found that the NOx controls that have reduced PM2.5 levels are also poised to be incredibly effective at decreasing the frequency of days with high ozone in the region," Pusede said.

Added Cohen, "The bottom line is that air quality in the San Joaquin Valley is substantially better as a result of NOx reductions, and we predict it will get better still as new regulations take effect."

Lynn Yarris is senior science writer at Berkeley Lab.

Visalia Named Safest City in State in New Allstate 'Best Drivers Report'

Staff Reports

Allstate Insurance Company released its 10th annual "Allstate America's Best Drivers Report" last week, and Visalia ranks first in California and seventh nationally as safest among America's 200 largest cities in terms of car collision frequency.

According to the report, the average driver in Visalia will experience an auto collision every 12.4 years – an improvement of one month or more for the second consecutive year – and a collision rate 19% better than the U.S. average.

"It's always interesting to see how our cities' rankings change over time," said Phil Telgenhoff, field senior vice president of Allstate in California. "We congratulate all the best drivers in Visalia and across California, and recognize their safe driving skills.

"We don't want any California drivers to be discouraged by their city ranking," he added. "Instead, we want the report to challenge them to make positive changes to their driving. By reducing distractions and by looking at the new report and how outside factors impact the rankings, we can become better drivers."

The Allstate America's Best Drivers Report was created to facilitate a dialogue on safe driving. This year's top honor of "America's Safest Driving City" is Fort Collins, Colorado, the fourth year the city has held the top spot in the report's ten-year history. According to the report, the average driver in Fort Collins will experience an auto collision every 14.2 years, which is 29.6% less likely than the national average of 10 years.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 33,500 car crash fatalities occurred in 2012. Additionally, Allstate research found that 70% of vehicles involved in auto claims are considered drivable, which indicates that most claims are the result of low speed (under 35 miles per hour) collisions. Allstate utilizes the America's Best Drivers Report to remind drivers to stay vigilant behind the wheel and protect themselves from challenging driving conditions.

To view the complete Allstate America's Best Drivers Report with these new rankings, or to see previous years' results, visit www.allstate.com/BestDriversReport.

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Lighting Display Pulls Plug on Frampton Concert at Oval Park

Steve Pastis

The August 29th Frampton's Guitar Circus concert, which would have brought Peter Frampton, Buddy Guy and Randy Bachman to town to perform at a revitalized Oval Park in Visalia, was cancelled the week before it was to happen, an apparent victim of staging logistics.

Peter Frampton

"Peter Frampton's Guitar Circus performance at Oval Park in Visalia, CA on Friday, August 29th, 2014, has been cancelled due to unforeseen logistical circumstances," wrote Ryan Stillwater, Visalia Rescue Mission's Oval Venue coordinator, in a release. "We apologize for any inconvenience."

The release went on to state that all tickets for Frampton's Guitar Circus would be refunded in full at their original point of purchase.

"I think that with everything, this was a house of cards that got blown over," said Stillwater, who was asked what really caused the cancellation. "There were logistical issues, as the press release said. It wasn't a farce.

"It was definitely a mutually agreeable cancellation," he said, adding that ticket sales were not a factor. There were 516 tickets sold at the time of cancellation.

The concert was booked in January, according to Stillwater. This is when the original contract was signed. Stillwater received a rider with new provisions to that contract in July.

"We did know he was bringing an LED wall, but what was left in the air was what it required to accommodate that specifically, like needing a load-bearing roof instead of just a shade structure."

The size of the LED wall also required a larger stage, which threatened trees in the park, and significantly increased expenses.

"When these things came into play, we did our best to accommodate them," said Stillwater, adding that every show has its own unique requirements. "Some are more flexible than others, but the overall design of the (Frampton) tour required some stuff that was non-negotiable for them. We wanted it to be a professional show, but at the same time we would have been over budget."

The cancellation was apparently not a response to Frampton's concerns about the venue. "Frampton's agent knew it was a city park," said Stillwater. "We never said Oval Park was ideal. There are trees, tables, a gazebo."

According to Stillwater's release announcing the cancellation, "Frampton along with the other performers, Buddy Guy and Randy Bachman, will make a donation to support the ongoing efforts of the mission."

"I think it's a very nice gesture," said Stillwater, adding that he didn't know the amount of the donations. "They are under no obligation to make any donation, but I think that speaks to the caliber of persons they are."

Stillwater is "not in any way bitter or disheartened" after the concert cancellation.

"Everything we set out to do we did," he said. "People are thinking differently about the park. Peter Frampton was never a means to an end. The mission goes on. Frampton wasn't the finale."

The Visalia Rescue Mission's commitment to the Oval Park community continues and future events are being planned at the park. John Mark McMillan, a Christian singer-songwriter and worship leader from North Carolina who has appeared at local churches and The Cellar Door in Visalia, will perform a free concert at Oval Park on Thursday, October 23rd. Some logistics, such as fencing, are yet to be worked out.

Airlines

Continued from p. 1

Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd.

SeaPort Airlines proposed 12 weekly roundtrips to Burbank Bob Hope Airport and 12 weekly roundtrips to Oakland International Airport. The same proposal also includes the service the company would provide to Merced. "We propose that an aircraft overnight at both Merced and Visalia, allowing both cities the benefit of an early morning departure," states the proposal. "Most importantly, our proposal will not result in Merced and Visalia sharing aircraft capacity. This means that each community will have access to 100% of the capacity of each flight, increasing chances that seats will be available at a reasonable fare."

"Burbank and San Diego are two hubs we are looking at," said Tim Seiber, SeaPort Airlines vice president. "We are looking to provide service to both. The San Diego service would be a one-stop via Burbank."

Portland-based SeaPort Airlines seeks to provide air service to Visalia.

"Mokulele proposes to operate three roundtrips each weekday between Visalia and either Los Angeles International Airport or Long Beach Airport," states the Mokulele Airlines proposal, which also includes service to Merced. "Should Mokulele be chosen to provide service to both communities, it would establish a maintenance and operations base at Visalia, CA. All Mokulele crewmembers would be based in Visalia, CA as well, in a two-city scenario. Consequently, in the two-city scenario, Visalia would receive a fourth weekday frequency northbound to Oakland International Airport via Merced."

Boutique Air offers two options. The first option includes 24 non-stop roundtrip flights to Los Angeles, the second option has 18 non-stop roundtrip flights. The proposal includes the following, however, "LAS (McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas) may be used instead of LAX for up to six frequencies at Boutique Air's discretion."

"Option one provides four years of service to and from Visalia utilizing a Cessna Grand Caravan aircraft operating 26 flights weekly," states the proposal from Schuman Aviation, Ltd. dba Wine Country Express. "Option two provides two years of service to the community utilizing the Cessna Grand Caravan for a two-year period followed by two years of operation aboard a nineteen-passenger Beech 1900 aircraft."

"Our proposals contemplate conveniently timed connecting services to our Los Angeles (LAX) hub, whereby passengers may utilize our code-share agreements with United Airlines," states the proposal from current provider Great Lakes, which also includes Merced.

Great Lakes also added a new destination in its proposal. "Great Lakes is submitting an indicative proposal for regional jet service for both Merced and Visialia to our Denver hub. We are prepared to commit, with the full marketing support of the communities and the regulatory support of federal agencies, to upgrading the aircraft to 37 seat or larger regional jets operating two roundtrips per weekday and two roundtrips over the weekend period."

"They actually have a large presence there," explained Cifuentez.

Although five air service providers submitted proposals, only three are under serious consideration by the subcommittee.

"There's a pretty big gap between the top three and the other two," Cifuentez said, adding that since the subcommittee is "still in discussion," he wouldn't share the name of one of the aspiring Visalia air service providers that was out of contention, but the other one that is no longer in the running is Wine Country. "They don't have any cities yet. They are too new for us to consider."

A smaller list of candidates makes things a little easier for the subcommittee, which has to consider the unique needs of the area served by Visalia Airport.

"It really is an apple-and-oranges type of thing," he explained. "What works for one city doesn't work for another. Californians drive. Californians refuse to get out of their cars. Fifty percent of the population drives to L.A. It's nothing for us to drive three hours."

Even after the subcommittee makes its recommendation, the city council makes its decision and contracts are signed, there could still be changes.

"The proposals are not binding," said Cifuentez, adding that along with air schedule changes over the years, two companies went out of business while they were still under contract to serve Visalia.

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Water

Continued from p. 1

both liable for the residents' wells going dry is unclear.

The McKay's Point project will not be just any reservoir, and there may not be one like it anywhere else in the country. The project has many hurdles, and probably will not come up for a vote by the supervisors until next year. But if the Tulare County Board of Supervisors approves construction, McKay's Point will start as a gravel mine and then convert to a reservoir 10 to 20 years later. CEMEX will process the gravel at their processing plant located in the Lemon Cove Project and then sell it. The owners of the property will receive a royalty that will pay for the construction of the reservoir. CEMEX will provide the services of an excavation contractor, digging out the material to create the reservoir, and the owners will construct the appurtenant facilities to allow for water flows in and out of it. All in all, the project is projected to cost about $12 million.

"We know water and they know mining," said James Silva, water master for CPDC. Silva said that the property owners went slowly because they didn't know anything about mining. They sought the input of a retired mine operation manager in the area to ensure that they understood the positions and operational capabilities of the mining industry when negotiating the contract.

CEMEX won't necessarily be mining McKay's Point for 20 years. The agreement with CEMEX lasts for 10 years with options for extension, up to a maximum of another 10 years. If sufficient excavation has not been achieved after 15 years, the property owners may terminate the agreement. Inflationary costs are accounted for, and CEMEX must pay more in royalties as time goes by, providing an incentive to complete the excavation services in a timely fashion.

Locals fear that during the ten to 20 years that CEMEX is mining, the company will sell the water and their wells will go dry. But in this project, the fox is not guarding the hen house. CEMEX will not be in charge of the trenches, as they remain the responsibility of the property owners. Silva said that the trenches and pumps will be well taken care of, fenced off, and running regularly.

The owners' goal is to have an empty pit ready to receive water in the event of a flood or when Terminus Dam needs to do a flood release. The water can then be stored until needed by the irrigation districts. Aaron Fukuda, head engineer for TID, also said that any extra water will not be sold "and, in one way or another, will be disposed of in a fashion where essentially all of it enters back into the underlying aquifer."

Richard Garcia, water committee chair from the local branch of the Sierra Club, hopes that some of the stored water can be released in the natural waterways such as Elk Bayou, Mill Creek, Cross Creek and Deep Creek. Suggestions such as Garcia's will be invited during the public comment period after the completion of the EIR. The EIR is being completed by Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group and should be done by October for internal review, then later this year for public review.

McKay's Point Reservoir will serve two main purposes. The first and foremost is to provide storage and flood control. Tulare County's flood events are short in duration, with most of the surplus water flowing downstream out of the Kaweah basin.

McKay's point reservoir can capture the floodwater from a diversion point on the Kaweah River of up to 500 cubic feet per second. The reservoir could go from empty to full in four days and could repeat the process multiple times in one year. The water will be held until it can be safely released into the St. Johns or Kaweah River, or when farmers most need water in late summer.

Diverting the water during a downpour will also help prevent the creeks from flooding in Visalia. The reservoir will store Kaweah River water belonging to the owners in accordance with their long-held water rights.

The second purpose is to optimize the use of the hydroelectric power plant at Terminus Dam. TID owns 25% of the hydroelectric plant and has a vested interest in keeping the plant running all year if possible. Additional storage downstream will enable better control of releasing water from Terminus Dam and will extend the amount of time the hydroelectric power plant can run.

Because the reservoir will be dug out of a gravely, sandy area with a high water table, seepage will be unavoidable. Fukuda is predicting 500 gallons per minute to seep into the pit. The water that seeps into the pit will be pumped over the wall to the trenches. Most of the seepage will come from the bottom up because cutoff walls will be constructed while the pit is mined by CEMEX.

"Based upon initial borings we are anticipating a design that would have a wall depth of 45 feet to 90 feet," said Fukuda. "The wall will start at about 10 to 15 feet below grade level, as it does not need to exist at heights above standing groundwater." The walls will be built using the latest engineering technology and be injected with slurry, a thick fluid that will harden inside the walls of the reservoir making them almost impervious.

TID, CPDC and Visalia and Kaweah Water Company have an obvious vested interest in building a high quality structure that is an asset to the community. Almost all farmers are going to be in favor of increased water storage, but this project is going to get resistance from the residents whose wells might be affected "by putting a brick in the middle of the aquifer" as one farmer described it. He added, "When you disturb the underground aquifer it most likely is going to be adversely."

Part two of the McKay Point Reservoir will review some of the concerns expressed by locals and environmentalists.

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SEIU

Continued from p. 1

visors on multiple occasions."

The county outlined six main points in their "Statement of Charge" document to be filed with PERB. Each of their six charges is outlined in the "Political Fix" section of this paper with arguments illustrating the county's case and SEIU defense.

Bales-Lange's charge of bypassing county negotiators to deal directly with the BOS stems from when the employees decided to take their case to the media and community. At the June 3, June 17 and June 24 BOS meetings, county employees, some directly involved with the negotiations, spoke during public comment. Some workers had prepared statements that talked about their jobs and their personal hardships caused by low wages. Others pointed out what they thought was a waste of county money and the fact that the management and BOS had received raises over the last two years while the rank-and-file had not received a raise for eight years.

BOS and county counsel believe that the employees comments concerning salaries crossed the line of conducting negotiations directly with the BOS and were in violation of state rules regarding labor negotiations. According to the *Visalia Times-Delta*, Supervisor Cox said, "I don't know of any other organization that's ever come out and said let's talk about this in open session. We know the rules of engagement. We can't negotiate from the dais." Supervisor Cox said after Bales-Lange's presentation that he felt the employees had "suckered in the press to carry their bucket of water."

On the other side of the table, the employees felt that negotiations were at a standstill and that the county would never budge. After ten sessions of no raise or bonuses offered, the employees started feeling like they were just negotiating with themselves. Bales-Lange claims that there was a sidebar offer of a 4% pay raise over two years, but the county's lawyer never officially put the offer on the table, and employee negotiators didn't see a raise in salary on the table until June 27, well after their public awareness efforts hit the newspapers.

Whether it is the employees' legal right or not to address the board about negotiations is up for debate. According to Bales-Lange, it goes against fair labor practices. According to Joanne Salazar, an SEIU organizer, the county's own lawyer told her it is every employees' right to address the BOS.

After Bales-Lange's presentation, Supervisor Steve Worthley reiterated that any one of these charges would be inadequate to file a case with PERB, but when you put them all together they illustrate SEIU's intention to delay the negotiations, which is against labor law.

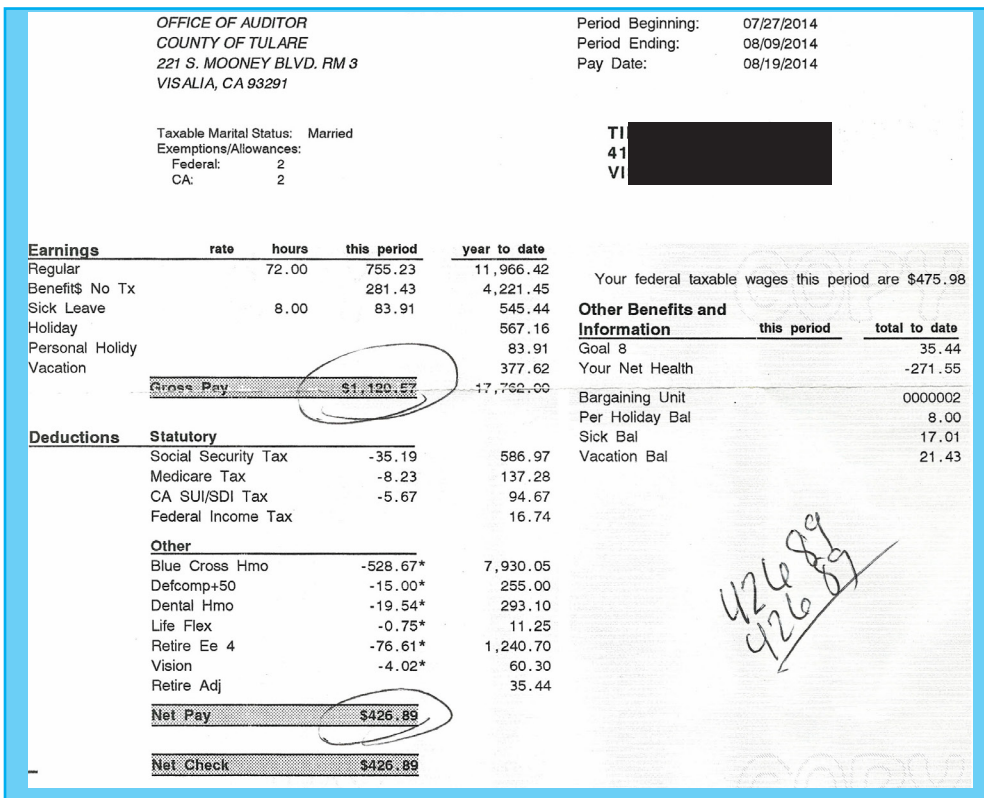
Supervisor Pete Vander Poel expressed reservations about spending $40,000 of taxpayer money on a case they might not win. Worthley countered that he understood Vander Poel's reservations, but no lawsuit is ever a guaranteed win. He said that SEIU has shown a pattern of bad behavior and has engaged in conduct that is not lawful and that they show no signs of abatement. "If we don't take steps now to address it, it will happen next year."

Supervisor Allen Ishida said that when you have people work outside the boundaries of the law you have to do something. County Administrator Jean Rousseau expressed his frustrations with the employees by saying, "This is all the thanks we get for successfully pulling the county out of the Great Recession?

In their "Statement of Charge" filed with PERB, the county is asking for "Requested Relief." If they win their case, they are asking that SEIU discontinue their bad faith bargaining practices and inform the employees of their conduct. The county is asking for their legal fees to be reimbursed and that SEIU reimburse their workers lost wages of $484,000 because of their delaying tactics.

A few years ago, SEIU also filed charges with PERB against the county and they are still winding their way through the system. Last month, PERB dismissed one of SEIU's charges as without merit. If the county is found guilty of the other three charges, it could represent millions of dollars in compensation to the workers.

The county's complaint will be finalized and filed with PERB within the next four weeks. According to the **Visalia Times-Delta**, "Cox said that if the county goes forward with it, he would be happy if the state agency determines that the union acted badly and just issues a warning to not do it again." Cox was quoted as saying, "We don't want them to act bad next time when negotiations on the next labor contract begin in about six months. I want them to come without a chip on their shoulders. I want them to come without the antics."



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Period Beginning: 07/27/2014
Period Ending: 08/09/2014
Pay Date: 08/19/2014

Taxable Marital Status: Married
Exemptions/Allowances:
Federal: 2
CA: 2

TI [redacted]
41
VI

Earnings	rate	hours	this period	year to date
Regular		72.00	755.23	11,966.42
Benefit$ No Tx			281.43	4,221.45
Sick Leave		8.00	83.91	545.44
Holiday				567.16
Personal Holidy				83.91
Vacation				377.62
Gross Pay			$1,120.57	17,782.00

Deductions	Statutory		
	Social Security Tax	-35.19	586.97
	Medicare Tax	-8.23	137.28
	CA SUI/SDI Tax	-5.67	94.67
	Federal Income Tax		16.74
	Other		
	Blue Cross Hmo	-528.67*	7,930.05
	Defcomp+50	-15.00*	255.00
	Dental Hmo	-19.54*	293.10
	Life Flex	-0.75*	11.25
	Retire Ee 4	-76.61*	1,240.70
	Vision	-4.02*	60.30
	Retire Adj		35.44
	Net Pay		$426.89
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Other Benefits and Information	this period	total to date
Goal 8		35.44
Your Net Health		-271.55
Bargaining Unit		0000002
Per Holiday Bal		8.00
Sick Bal		17.01
Vacation Bal		21.43

426.89
426.89

Pictured above is Marie's pay stub. She is a custodial worker who is on the negotiating team. She is using her middle name for this article. After benefits and all other deductions are taken out, Marie receives $426.89 each pay period, which works out to be $853.78 per month. After paying $750 in rent, that leaves her with $103.78 to live on.

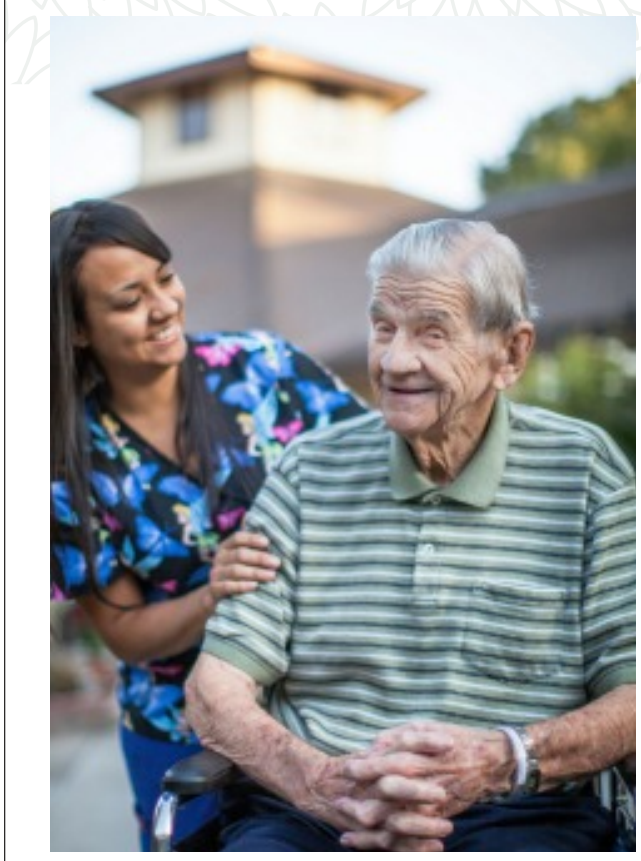
Marie has not paid her bills in three months and is on the cusp of having her electricity turned off. She and her husband decided to rent out their extra bedroom and the garage conversion to two strangers and now might have enough to keep the electricity on. When she was hired to work for the county, she opted for signing up for full health coverage because her husband is disabled. He needs to see a doctor, but because they only have $103 left over, he cannot afford the $15 co-pay or the $10 co-pay for prescriptions. Marie has applied for food stamps, but because the agency calculates eligibility on gross pay--and not what she actually brings home--she did not qualify. Sometimes she said there is just no food in her house.

I asked Marie what motivated her to be on the negotiating team. She said that she got involved because she wanted to start fighting for herself instead of having others fight her battles. Who among us would be as strong as Marie and not just fold up our tent and quit? Not many.

At the August 25 contract negotiations, Marie was informed that her premiums were going up.

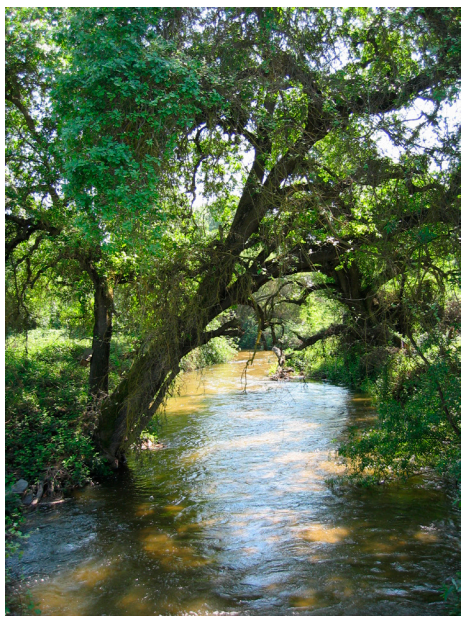
Bargaining Unit 2 Still Working Without a Contract

In the middle of all the legal wrangling are the ongoing negotiations with Bargaining Unit 2 (BU2). BU2 joined SEIU in May. SEIU assumed that BU2 would be included in the contract negotiations with units 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7, but was told by the county that BU2 had to negotiate its contract separately. BU2 represents about 200 Tulare County custodial workers. They are in their fourth round of negotiations and the county has not offered any raises. The BU2 employee negotiators have asked for a onetime $1,200 bonus in place of a raise but the county stood firm on their pledge not to offer a wage increase or bonus. Their next negotiation will be September 10.



Kaweah Oaks Celebrates 30 Years with Event and Expansion

Kaweah Oaks Preserve, the 322-acre nature preserve that protects one of the last remaining valley oak riparian forests in the San Joaquin Valley, is now 22 acres larger after purchasing a property that potentially threatened the tranquility of the preserve. Kaweah Oaks, located on the north side of Highway 198 east of Visalia is where more than 300 plant and animal species live, feed or reproduce, including the gray fox, great horned owl, Nuttall's woodpecker, wild grapevines, willow thickets and majestic valley oaks.



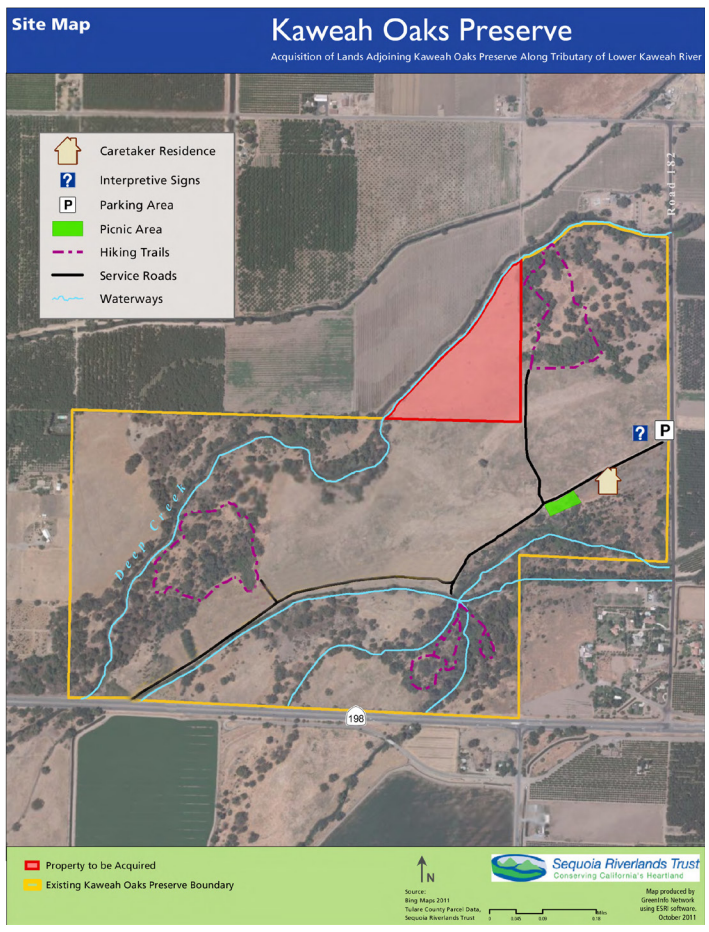
One of the waterways at Kaweah Oaks Preserve during peak flow in the summer. Photo by John Greening.

"The 22-acre parcel was vitally important because it juts into the very core of the preserve, with the development implications being somewhat dire should a private landowner have succeeded in building a home or ATV track, or other noisy enterprise at odds with the peaceful character of a nature preserve," explained Aaron Collins, director of communications and community relations for Sequoia Riverlands Trust, the regional nonprofit land trust that manages the preserve. "The acquisition, envisioned from the inception of the preserve, now makes Kaweah Oaks Preserve whole."

The new land addition, which borders Deep Creek at the Preserve's northern edge, will soon be restored to riparian forest and oak woodland. The replanting effort will re-establish continuous forestation along the waterway. The new parcel had been used to grow plums since the 1950s.

The money to purchase the 22 acres was raised through a combination of grants and individual local donors. The California Natural Resources Agency's (CNRA) Land Conservation Program grant fund provided a substantial portion toward the $552,000 "Campaign for Kaweah Oaks Preserve." The balance came from contributions from local donors such as Bill and Libby Clark, Jody Nicholson, Fred Lagomarsino, Eric Shannon and other prominent community members. The Tulare County Office of Education offered a major grant toward the restroom construction in consideration of the impact of area schools' field trips to the preserve.

On October 1, Sequoia Riverlands Trust will honor those donors and the CNRA at "An Evening Under the Oaks" at Kaweah Oaks Preserve. Mike Chrisman will emcee and Ken Chao will perform live music. There will also be a presentation by The Raven Lady. ("Kaweah" is the onomatopoeia for crows and ravens in the Wukchumne dialect.) The video of the August 28th Native American blessing of the preserve will be screened on a loop that evening. Café 225 and Vintage Press will supply the food. Tickets are $35.



"The 22-acre expansion is a great way to celebrate Kaweah Oaks Preserve's 30th year," said Collins. "And the fundraising success that enabled the acquisition serves as proof of the land's vitality to the community, as well as the importance of Sequoia Riverlands Trust's education programming at Kaweah Oaks, which is often the means by which area students gain their very first direct experience of the natural world. Kaweah Oaks is close to home, so kids can get away from computers and smart phones to enjoy and learn about the outdoors without mediation from a screen."

The capital campaign that funded the expansion is still underway. The campaign's goals now include constructing permanent restrooms, which are particularly important with thousands of area students now annually visiting on field trips, and new monument signage to bring greater attention to the preserve, both along Highway 198 and at the preserve entrance on Road 182. Donors may call Sequoia Riverlands Trust at 738-0211, or visit www.sequoiariverlands.org.

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Farm Bureau to Celebrate Agriculture at Bounty of the County

Tulare County Farm Bureau will present Bounty of the County from 5-8pm on September 20 at the Historic Seven Sycamores Ranch in Ivanhoe.

Bounty of the County is a celebration of local agriculture with bountiful samplings of food, beverages and specialty products grown in Tulare County. Tickets are $45 each and available at the Tulare County Farm Bureau Office.

The country casual evening will also include live music from Kevin Willard and the Cadillac Cowboys, as well as door prizes provided by participating exhibitors and the Farm Bureau.

"We're excited to provide the community with an event where they can come out and enjoy samples of fine local food and wine in a casual, country environment," said Joey Airoso, Tulare County Farm Bureau president. "Bounty of the County is a great way to celebrate Tulare County agriculture and all it has to offer."

Many local farmers, restaurants and businesses will be present showcasing their culinary specialties at Bounty of the County, including Summerhill Dairy, All Fired Up Pizza, Brewbakers, Hazel's Kitchen, Rosa Brothers Milk Company, Cacciatore Fine Wines, Stafford's Famous Chocolates and more.

The evening also includes the "Best of Bounty" contest, where patrons can vote for their favorite dishes exhibited at the event. Guests will vote for their favorites in the categories of Most Savory, Best Sweet Treat and Best Fresh Product. Exhibitors will be awarded prizes, recognition and, of course, bragging rights for being named the "Best of Bounty."

Tickets are $45 and are available for purchase by contacting the Tulare County Farm Bureau at 732-8301 or TCFB@tulcofb.org. For more information, visit www.tulcofb.org.

Hon. Paul Vortmann

The *Valley Voice* would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Judge Paul Vortmann's family. If not for a favorable ruling in Judge Vortmann's courtroom on July 29, the *Valley Voice* would have been turfed out onto the street. Neither the CEMEX articles nor the articles reporting on the county suit against SEIU could have been written. For some that might have been a good thing, but for those who need their voice to be heard that would have been a bad thing. Judge Vortmann's decisions had a ripple effect that, just in our one case, affected hundreds of people. The number of people he helped after 15 years on the bench is awe-inspiring and Judge Vortmann has inspired me to do better every day. U.S. District Judge Lawrence O'Neill, a close friend of Judge Vortmann, was quoted in the *Visalia Times-Delta* as saying, "If you ever read any opinion he wrote or any ruling he passed down, he always had his mind and his heart in every ruling. He just had a way of making everyone feel welcome and glad they had been in his presence-no exception."

Political Fix

Continued from p. 3

supplied by the county states, "Regressive bargaining, or bad faith bargaining, is any conduct that moves the parties away from agreement rather than towards agreement." Examples are: reneging on previously reached tentative agreements, withdrawal of proposals, refusal to respond to proposals on the table, or submitting proposals which can be construed as less than a position that was offered previously.

During Bales-Lange presentation at the August 26th BOS meeting she said that SEIU made two regressive proposals. The two regressive proposals she referenced are confidential until the Unfair Labor Practices complaint is filed with PERB. According to John Hess, county analyst, "The regressive proposals will be attached to and/or outlined in the PERB documents when submitted. We believe that the complaint will be filed in mid-September. "

Bales-Lange also stated that, because of SEIU's regressive bargaining, workers salary increases were delayed for three pay periods costing $484,000 or $172 a worker. The "Statement of Charge" claims that SEIU engaged in bad faith bargaining with the intent to delay the negotiation process and thus delayed their workers receiving their raise.

SEIU position:

June 26 was an eight-hour negotiation session where both sides made several proposals. It was the first instance where the county negotiators put anything formally on the table involving money in the workers' pocket. Raises, bonuses and PERB charges were all bargaining chips used by both sides. SEIU feels that each proposal they made during the negotiations was a reasonable counter to what county put on the table. By the end of the day, SEIU told the county to make an offer that did not involve the PERB charges. So the county made their final offer of a 3% raise for a one-year contract. At that time, SEIU decided not to take county's offer to the workers because they wanted to keep fighting to get the same raise as was given management.

SEIU says that they cannot be blamed for the fact that the county waited nine or ten negotiating sessions before offering the workers a raise. If the county was concerned about the workers lost wages, they could have made all agreements retroactive. Just because a retroactive salary increase was not on the table doesn't mean the county could not have done it anyway.

My recommendation? The two sides need to go to marriage counseling and save the county a possible $80,000 in taxpayer money in case they lose and have to pay SEIU's legal fees also.

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Fitch Removes Rating Watch Negative for Tulare Regional Medical Center

Fitch Ratings has affirmed the 'B' rating on $15,230,000 series 2007 fixed-rate bonds issued by the Tulare Local Health Care District doing business as Tulare Regional Medical Center (TRMC). The Rating Watch Negative has been removed and the Rating Outlook is Stable.

The removal from Rating Watch Negative reflects growing progress on construction plans achieved over the last six months. A settlement was reached with the previous contractor in July. A new team has been put in place under HealthCare Conglomerate Associates' (HCCA) leadership, and a completion plan has been established. Currently, TRMC is evaluating various funding options, but no new debt is expected at the TRMC level.

The Stable Outlook reflects a dramatic turnaround in operating and financial performance since Fitch's last review in February. TRMC posted an operating loss of $3.9 million through the six months ending December 31, 2013, but a positive operating income of $1.6 million in the second half of the following year. Improved operating margin of negative 3.3% at fiscal year ended (FYE) June 30, 2014 (unaudited interim results) was attributable to revenue enhancement as well as expense reduction initiatives. Fitch believes the positive trend over the last few months indicates performance improvement plans taking hold and signal recovery.

Considerable amount of uncertainty around the timing and funding sources remain, although meaningful progress has been made over the last six months. Fitch believes that the hospital can continue to operate without completion of the project over the near term. Further, additional debt funding secured by the revenues of the hospital is not expected to be pursued over the near term.

Tulare Local Health Care District, dba Tulare Regional Medical Center, owns and operates a 112-bed hospital in the city of Tulare. Total operating revenue in FYE June 30, 2014 was $68.6 million. Since January, TRMC has been managed by HealthCare Conglomerate Associates under a management agreement.

TRMC has a construction project in progress featuring a 24-bed emergency department, a new diagnostic department, a 16-bed obstetric unit, four surgery suites, and 27 new private patient rooms meeting seismic requirements. This new expansion tower was initially slated to open October 2012, but suffered disruptions due to concrete delamination issues and ensuing conflicts with the contractors.

Over the last six months, TRMC was able to reach a settlement agreement with the previous contractors and put a makeup schedule and budget in place. The completion of the project is now pending a funding source, with several options currently under evaluation. Fitch assumes that the ultimate decision will not have a material impact on TRMC's solvency, and will evaluate any impact of funding sources after plans are finalized and disclosed.

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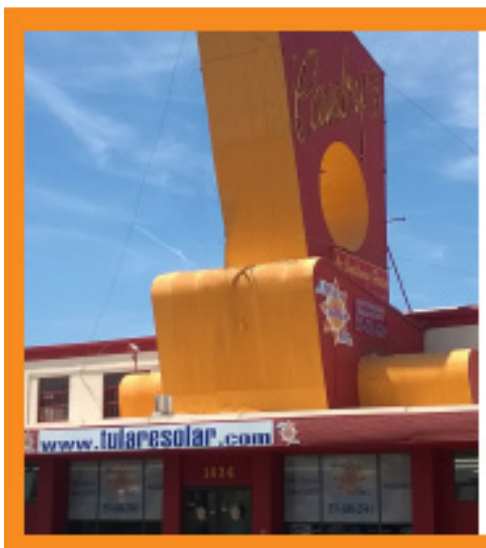

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Briefly...

General Plan Update to Go to Visalia City Council

After more than four years, the City of Visalia is nearing completion of a comprehensive update to its General Plan. The Visalia Planning Commission recently recommended that the Visalia City Council adopt the Visalia General Plan and Climate Action Plan. The plan will now be reviewed by the city council on Monday, September 8, at 5:30pm at City Council Chambers, 707 W. Acequia Ave.

The General Plan regulates the city's boundaries and maps out where the new roads, subdivisions and businesses should be located. This update replaces the existing General Plan that was adopted in 1991 and revised in 1996.

The General Plan Update will accommodate a population of 210,000 people, an increase of about 85,560 persons over the 2010 Census count of 124,440. The update will accommodate about 32,200 more residential units and 22.75 million square feet of commercial space over what currently exists as well as the build-out of the existing Industrial Park.

USDA Continues to Seek Input for 2017 Census of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to seek input for the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted only once every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture down to the county level.

NASS released the complete 2012 Census of Agriculture results on May 2. In June, the agency began asking for content suggestions for the 2017 Agriculture Census and is accepting suggestions from the public. Any individual or organization may ask to add or delete items on questionnaire, as well as send any other ideas about the census.

"Many industries want data that we currently don't collect," said NASS Associate Administrator Renee Picanso. "There are also some data that people think are no longer relevant with changing trends in agriculture. This is the time to express those ideas and concerns."

Comments can be submitted online at www.agcensus.usda.gov/Contact_Us/Census_Program_Input_Form/. Written suggestions may be mailed to: Census Content Team, Room 6451, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Tulare Downtown Association Seeks Vendors

The Tulare Downtown Association is seeking vendors for its annual Oktoberfest celebration to be held October 17 at VIP Pizza and in its parking lot at San Joaquin Avenue and K Street in downtown Tulare. The association seeks businesses and individuals interested in selling food and retail items. Ten-by-ten booth space is available for $15.

The annual Oktoberfest celebration features two bands this year. Fritz and the Cats will kick off the event at 5pm with jazz, while Flashback will perform classic rock and favorites later in the evening. Other entertainment includes performing teams, games and contests.

Details are available through the Tulare Downtown Association office at 685-2350 or by visiting www.tulare-downtown.com.

Shuklian Schedules Monthly Office Hours

Visalia City Council Member Amy Shuklian will hold her monthly office hours on Wednesday, September 10, for Visalia residents to discuss issues of concern. Walk-ins are welcome from 5 to 5:45pm in the conference room at City Hall, at 707 W. Acequia Ave.

Appointments from 5:45 to 6:30pm can be scheduled in advance by calling Lauri Aguilar at 713-4322. Shuklian also can be reached at 713-4400, then enter 8313, or by email at ashuklian@ci.visalia.ca.us.

Rabobank Releases Report on Global Dairy Environmental Regulation

Environmental compliance costs have become an increasing concern for California dairies over the last decade. While regulatory costs are currently not a "make or break" issue for most dairies operating in the Central Valley, they are a significant consideration for those considering new dairy construction or substantial expansion.

This is a stark contrast when compared to two other dairy powerhouse producers, Holland and New Zealand. The former has a mature regulatory environment based on controlling inputs into the farm system while the latter is facing adoption of a new effects-based regulatory regime. The environmental regulations of the three countries are examined in a new report from the Rabobank Food & Agribusiness Research and Advisory group, titled "Competitive Challenges – Environmental Regulations are Changing the Rules of the Game."

"California dairymen have developed a significant level of expertise integrating environmental management requirements into their business models," said Rabobank Senior Analyst Vernon Crowder, the report's co-author. "For example, the Central Valley dairies organizing to create regional well monitoring programs likely reduced overall costs by many times."

The report goes into great depth in each country examining current and proposed future regulations to create a relative competitive position for each.

"For California dairymen, the greatest challenge in the future will be expansion," notes Crowder. "The balancing act of regulatory costs and potential economic gain will need to be watched carefully. Ultimately, California is too attractive a production region to abandon and producers need to be highly involved in current and future regulatory discussions so that they can positioned to adapt as necessary."

Family HealthCare Network Announces New Hires

Family HealthCare Network (FHCN) announced several recent additions and promotions. Gordon Lee, PA-C, is the organization's newest clinical director, and along with current clinical director, Liberty Lomeli, will oversee FHCN's Porterville, Springville and Terra Bella health centers. Before his promotion, Lee practiced family medicine at FHCN's Porterville Health Center for nearly five years.

Internal Medicine Hospitalist Pallavkumar Patel, MD, has joined the FHCN healthcare team in Visalia. Before joining FHCN, Dr. Patel practiced as an attending physician at Feather River Hospital in Paradise. Norr Hashem, DO, is now at FHCN's Visalia Oak Health Center, practicing as a family medicine physician, and Shellie Burdick, DO, and Rebecca Flax, PA-C, have been added to the team of providers at FHCN's Visalia School Avenue Health Center.

CDPH Reports No Confirmed Cases of Ebola in the State

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is working with local health departments and health care providers statewide to identify patients who have traveled to countries affected by ebola. CDPH is directing health providers to follow protocols established by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the diagnosis and treatment of these patients.

There are currently no confirmed cases of ebola in California.

Petrascu Granted Hospice Medical Director Certified Credential

Anca Petrascu, MD, HMDC, director of Hospice and Palliative Care at Kaweah Delta Hospice, was recently granted the Hospice Medical Director Certified (HMDC) credential by the Hospice Medical Director Certification Board. Following an exam, Petrascu became one of only approximately 300 HMDC physicians in the country.

Hospice practice includes patient care, medication management, performance improvement, engagement in interdisciplinary group activities, and more. Professional certification affirms a knowledge and experience base for hospice practitioners to display commitment to their career, and dedication to patient and family care, and to the sustainability of the hospice organization and industry.

Forbes School of Business Names Local Scholarship Finalist

Forbes School of Business at Ashford University has announced that Clifford Ray Smith of Lemoore is among three finalists for its Senior Project Scholarship. The scholarship award winner will receive $5,000 applied to future tuition in the Forbes School of Business master's degree program.

Smith, who was diagnosed with cancer shortly after enrolling at Ashford University, was a full-time student while simultaneously working 70 hours per week as an active-duty military officer. He doubled up on courses when allowed and even found time to volunteer for the American Cancer Society while earning his bachelor's degree. He was inducted into three honor societies and graduated summa cum laude.

With plans to pursue an MBA with an emphasis in global management, Smith is a military police officer and instructor planning to retire after 24 years serving in 58 countries and two wars. "My dedication and perseverance proves I am a strong candidate for success in the MBA program," he said.

The recipient of the scholarship will be announced during Ashford University's fall graduation on October 5 at the San Diego Convention Center.

Visalia Inventors Help Tennis Serve, Toilet Bowl Cleaning

A serve can be considered the most difficult and complicated shot for beginners to learn, and it also can be difficult to teach. This is mainly due to the beginner's having to toss up the ball before each practice serve.

"In order to solve this problem, I conceived of my design," said an unnamed inventor from Visalia, who created the patent-pending "TENNIS," an easy-to-use, versatile device that provides an easier, more efficient way to teach and learn a tennis serve.

Meanwhile, another unnamed Visalia inventor (perhaps the same fellow?) has created the Flush 'n Scrub to make an unpopular chore a little more tolerable. "Cleaning a toilet bowl can be a tedious task, so I conceived of a device that solves this problem," he said.

Both inventions are currently being marketed by InventHelp, based in Pittsburgh.

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Multiple Agencies Work to Eradicate Marijuana on Tule River Reservation

Wildlife officers from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California National Guard – Counterdrug Task Force, Tule River Tribal member organizations and a multitude of other agencies successfully conducted a five-day operation to eradicate marijuana from tribal lands last week. In addition to creating a public safety threat, the growers were poaching wildlife, polluting the land and water and destroying habitat.

Growers were also stealing water directly from tributaries to the Tule River. The Tule River Tribe relies upon this water for 80% of their water source. Growers typically use between 8-10 gallons of water per plant per day. The illegal water diversions supported 13,698 marijuana plants during severe drought conditions. On average, these marijuana plants consumed over 100,000 gallons of water per day.

Personnel from many agencies worked together to eradicate the marijuana and restore the site to as pristine a condition as possible.

Several water sources were found dammed, with every drop of water diverted for marijuana. Several water storage reservoirs constructed by the growers were capable of storing up to 5,000 gallons.

"We will continue our efforts in protecting our sacred lands and restoring the water for future generations to come," said William J. Garfield, Tule River Tribal spokesperson.

Personnel from all agencies worked together to eradicate the marijuana and restore the site to as pristine a condition as possible. They removed the entire infrastructure of the grow site, including all dams, fertilizers, pesticides, human waste and approximately 12,000 pounds of garbage.

They also took out 10 miles of plastic irrigation pipe, seven manmade reservoirs, 12 five-gallon propane tanks and eight car batteries.

Other participating agencies included the Tulare County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Justice – Campaign Against Marijuana Plantations, Team Hawk 129th Air Rescue Wing, High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew, Tule River Tribal Council, Tule River Department of Public Safety, Tule River Natural Resources Department, Tule River Fire Department, Tule River Public Works Department and the Tule River Environmental Department.

Tule River Tribe is taking action to cut down on marijuana growth and the overuse of limited water, and take a proactive stand to be supportive of the local community's safety, resources and environment.

Members of the EDC Board of Directors pose with Brett Doney following the presentation of the AEDO recognition. From left to right: Monte Reyes, City of Porterville; Dan Zoldak, Lars Andersen; Dr. Rosa Carlson, Porterville College; Colby Wells, Southern California Gas Company; Mike Porte, Newmark Grubb Pearson Commercial; EDC Board Chair Craig Vejvoda, City of Tulare; Brett Doney, president and CEO, Great Falls Development Authority representing the International Economic Development Council; EDC Immediate Past Chair Nick Seals, Seals/Biehle, Inc.; Harroll Wiley, Bank of the Sierra; Leonel Benavides, City of Farmersville; John Lollis, City of Porterville; Mike Olmos, City of Visalia; and George Vasquez, Rabobank.

EDC Receives Accreditation Recognition

Brett Doney, president and CEO of the Great Falls (Montana) Development Authority, representing the International Economic Development Council, formally presented the Economic Development Corporation serving Tulare County with the recognition as an Accredited Economic Development Organization, having successfully completed its third reaccreditation process. The EDC is one of the longest standing AEDO's, having first been accredited in 2002.

In making the presentation, Doney told the EDC Board that only 2% of economic development organizations in the country have been able to achieve the designation, and even fewer have been able to maintain it as consistently as the EDC in Tulare County. He also indicated that the EDC has earned the right to claim the tagline of a recent advertisement "California's Most Innovative Economic Development Organization."

The presentation was made at the EDC Board's annual meeting, where it also received its annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30. As EDC Board Chairman Craig Vejvoda noted, it was an exceptional year on all accounts and the EDC is well positioned to continue its successful track record of business attraction and improving the quality of life, one job at a time.

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Viewpoint

Why and How the U.S. Should Engage North Korea Right Now

Mel Gurtov

U.S. relations with North Korea have been pushed into the background by events in the Middle East. But the so-called "North Korea nuclear issue"—"so-called" because the larger issue, which involves the interests of several countries, is security and strategic stability on the Korean peninsula—remains unresolved and potentially dangerous.

I and many other specialists have urged the U.S. and other governments to genuinely engage North Korea. But engagement doesn't just mean contact or involvement; it means a process that includes reaching out to an adversary in efforts to catalyze new directions for policies on all sides. Genuine, effective engagement should: Create a political environment conducive to policy change, focus on joint actions that will move the parties from destructive conflict to collaborative transformation, involve incentives and mutual rewards in security and peace, and be undertaken in a spirit of mutual respect. Only genuine engagement with North Korea holds out hope of settling the nuclear issue and easing tensions that could again engulf the Korean peninsula in war.

In April 2014, David Sanger reported in the *New York Times* that President Obama's North Korea specialists feel "stuck" on where to go next with North Korea, having explored every option. However, what the Obama administration has offered during its six years in office is not engagement but sticks and carrots based on North Korean concessions: If North Korea gives up its nuclear weapons, the United States will then have dialogue with its leadership. But engaging North Korea should not be exclusively about North Korean denuclearization. It should above all be about enhancing security for parties with interests in the Korean peninsula, such that nuclear weapons become irrelevant for strategic or political purposes.

There are many strategic reasons why the U.S. should initiate win-win engagement with North Korea, but here are just three.

First, every time North Korean leaders feel threatened or ignored, they undertake a weapons test or other provocative action, such as the July 2014 threat of nuclear attack on the White House, provoked by U.S.-ROK (South Korea) military exercises. Those exercises may seem like standard procedures to us, but to the North Koreans, they are a reminder of their vulnerability. In November 2002, Kim Jong-il sent a written personal message to President George W. Bush that said: "If the United States recognizes our sovereignty and assures nonaggression, it is our view that we should be able to find a way to resolve the nuclear issue in compliance with the demands of a new century. … If the United States makes a bold decision, we will respond accordingly." That position has been restated a number of times since, and nonaggression assurances are best made through dialogue.

Second, by abandoning engagement, the U.S. strengthens the hand of those in North Korea's leadership who doubt the usefulness of negotiations, and prevents opportunities for dialogue with leaders who want to reduce tensions and gain concessions. According to Charles Pritchard, in an October 2003 Brookings editorial, Kim Jong-il told Madeleine Albright in October 2000 that, with U.S. security assurances, "he would be able to convince his military that the United States was no longer a threat and then be in a position to refocus his country's resources." There is no reason to think Kim Jong-un does not possess comparable authority and similar goals.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, engagement increases opportunities for direct contact with the North Korean people. We have many examples of how appreciative Korean people have been when they receive meaningful help. Focusing on young people, as the Pyongyang Project does, may provide a framework of support for the critical projects that NGOs carry out and potential transformations within the country.

North Korea is just as tired of talk for talk's sake as the United States is. It too won't "buy the same horse twice." Fruitful negotiations can proceed only if Pyongyang sees engagement as strengthening regime and state survival. North Korea would most likely be interested in proposals that:

- Provide some assurance against U.S.-designed regime change.
- Enhance North Korea's legitimacy as an independent socialist state.
- Provide international guarantees of North Korea's security and eventually end sanctions.
- Pave the way for long-term development assistance, increased trade and investment, and short-term food and fuel aid, thus also reducing dependence on China.
- Undermine arguments in South Korea and Japan for keeping open the nuclear-weapon option.

The United States and other nations should present a package to North Korea that, in return for verifiable steps to neutralize North Korea's nuclear arsenal, provides the North with security assurances, a proposal for ending the Korean War and signing a nonaggression pact with big-power guarantees (with China and Russia on board), and meaningful economic assistance from both NGOs and governments.

We have to accept the fact that the Kim regime is not going to just go away. Washington expectations that the regime will either self-destruct or wither away under outside pressure are mostly wishful thinking; by every indication Kim Jong-un remains firmly in command. If the U.S. and its allies continue to assume imminent regime change and a disengaged, zero-sum approach, they will embolden the most hawkish of North Korean leadership, providing them with "evidence" that more nukes provide the only real security against an untrustworthy America.

To be sure, engagement of the North does not guarantee its good behavior or friction-free interaction. But we should seriously explore what North Korean officials have long insisted: that if the United States abandons its "hostile policy," the nuclear issue and much else can be resolved. We should test that view, one step—and one incentive—at a time.

Mel Gurtov, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is professor emeritus of political science at Portland State University, editor-in-chief of Asian Perspective*, an international affairs quarterly, and blogs at In the Human Interest.*

Rise of ISIS Highlights Irony of U.S. Foreign Policy

Stephen Zunes

At the start of classes one year ago, I had to explain to my students why the United States appeared to be on the verge of going to war against the Syrian government. At the beginning of this semester, exactly one year later, I'm having to explain to my students why the United States may be on the verge of going to war against Syrian rebels.

Already, U.S. planes and missiles have been attacking the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) forces in northern Iraq. Given the threat of a genocidal campaign against Yazidis and other minorities and the risks of ISIS control expanding into the Kurdish region, even some of those normally averse to unilateral U.S. military intervention abroad have considered it the lesser of two evils.

Within days, however, there were already indications of "mission creep," as what had been officially declared an exclusively defensive mission turned offensive when the United States provided air support for Kurdish and Iraqi forces, which seized the Mosul Dam from ISIS forces.

It is not surprising, therefore, that there is skepticism regarding this use of military force. Even if one can make a convincing strategic case for such a military operation, the failure of President Obama to go before Congress for authorization of this renewed military intervention in Iraq is extremely disturbing.

Ironically, President Obama has been getting high-profile criticism from those wishing he had been more aggressive with projecting American military power. For example, in a well-publicized interview in The Atlantic, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton blamed the rise of ISIS on Obama's failure to sufficiently arm and support the so-called moderate rebels of the Free Syrian Army (FSA).

Such a charge defies logic, however. The FSA consists of literally hundreds of separate militia without a central command, largely composed of relatively inexperienced fighters, who would have been no match for the well-armed, experienced, disciplined fighters of ISIS, regardless of the amount of weapons the U.S. might have provided. In fact, it was an awareness of ISIS's potential dominance of the Syrian rebel movement that served as an important reason why the Obama administration didn't go beyond the relatively limited arming and training of a few small groups affiliated with the FSA.

Indeed, part of ISIS's military prowess comes from weapons they captured from overrunning FSA positions and from their ranks supplemented by FSA fighters who, in the course of the three-year battle with Assad's forces, became radicalized and switched sides.

In any case, ISIS has found an even stronger foothold in Iraq than Syria, a direct consequence of the U.S. invasion and occupation. In a profile of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, a one-time moderate Sufi turned Salafist extremist, the *New York Times* observed, "At every turn, Mr. Baghdadi's rise has been shaped by the United States' involvement in Iraq — most of the political changes that fueled his fight, or led to his promotion, were born directly from some American action."

Almost immediately after the 2003 invasion, U.S. occupation forces systematically dismantled the country's secular national institutions, which were quickly filled by both Sunni and Shia extremists (actions which Hillary Clinton, as a U.S. Senator, strongly supported).

The biggest division among Iraq's Arabs, however, is not between Sunnis and Shias but between nationalist and sectarian tendencies within both communities. Under the corrupt and autocratic U.S.-backed Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, Shia sectarians dominated. This resulted in an initially nonviolent Sunni backlash, which was met by severe government repression. This backlash was eventually hijacked by ISIS, which rid the major Sunni-dominated cities of government control.

Whether the new Iraqi leadership will actually be willing, or able given pervasive U.S. influence, to rid the government of Shia hardliners and become more inclusive, pluralistic, and democratic remains to be seen.

Ironically, the eventual demise of ISIS will more likely stem from the group's own fanaticism than from any action by Baghdad or the U.S. ISIS—which even the Al-Qaeda network believes is too extreme—sees not just those who aren't Sunni Muslims as "infidels," but anyone who doesn't subscribe to its extremist ideology. Since almost everyone under its rule is therefore at risk, the prospects of the Iraqi and Syrian people eventually rising up against ISIS is high. In fact, Syrian nonviolent activists have already been openly defiant of ISIS. Had the active nonviolent coalition groups in Syria received material or diplomatic support from the beginning, instead of Clinton's "moderate" rebels, they may have been able to prevent or mitigate the rise of ISIS altogether.

Massive Western military intervention will likely create a backlash that could strengthen political support for the extremists. The United States has been bombing Iraq on and off for nearly a quarter century and things have only gotten worse, for the people of Iraq, the security interests of Iraq's neighbors and, ultimately, for the United States. Just as Sunni tribal leaders were more effective than either U.S. forces or the Iraqi government in driving out Al-Qaeda from northwestern Iraq in 2007-2008, they may also be the key, along with nonviolent civil society, in ridding their region of ISIS and any other actual or potential threats.

Stephen Zunes, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is a professor of politics at the University of San Francisco, where he serves as program director for Middle Eastern Studies. A version of this article originally appeared in The Progressive.

Recycle this paper
read it again

Columns & Letters

Correction:
In "Construction Begins at Sierra Care at the Lake in Springville," published August 21, the property was purchased by DOPO Living Trust.
The Costa Natalie Trust was the seller.

Letter: For Goodness Sake

To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Test this natural law by loading your rifle and pulling the trigger. The kick back gives you a clear understanding of how this law works. The bullet leaves forward out the muzzle at very high velocity and the rifle butt kicks you in the shoulder. We can't change natural law even though it seems to be mans burning desire to do so.

I mourn for the demise of our brilliantly penned constitution, a document which has defended freedom while people found their way into the abundant corridors of self worth and service to their fellow man across the world and to life's vast array of living species so very dear to us, as well as nature's gift of wind, water and soil.

Technology is wonderful in its own right. However, Geo-engineering is a two part experimental program under military control.

Chemtrails, little known to the general public, is under the direction of geo-engineering. They use high flying aircraft to dump megatons of Aluminum oxide, barium and strontium, in the form of nana particles. Metallic-like clouds fall on the world's population. These metals become poison to our mind and body as we inhale the air. They will take their toll on our ability to comprehend our awareness until death do we part.

HAARP, High Frequency Active Aurora Research Program can burn holes in the ozone allowing man to manipulate weather, create personality changes in the minds of mankind, create earthquakes, volcanoes, and hurricanes. It is a devastating weapon in times of war and a serious threat to all life on earth. This is not so much about scientists controlling the clouds as it is about controlling world population. They perceive these technical advances as greatly significant to their own personal wellbeing.

Technical advances are now in the hands of sociopathic thinking elite. They savor the idea of controlling a one world government with a firm grip on all bank money. Their program is deeply woven into the American social fabric while we the people appear to enjoy the last vestige of personal freedom. The end result could be the horrific repeat in brutality experienced with past fallen nations. This time, it could include all people and all nations.

Unfortunately, our congress has allowed this to happen while enjoying big money for big favors while the moneyed elite have stepped above the laws of the land, disregarding human rights established within our constitution.

They pursue the task of manipulating one government against another until war becomes eminent. They appease peoples with unrealistic entitlements, extravagant pensions far to abundant for the health of national budgets, bad choices in food stamp recipients, depravation of adequate employment and the dwindling need for parents and schools to inspire their young with values that fit an attractive life style. Banks are now dispersing money away from those who have earned it to those who plan to take it. I'm sorry, that's something the media forgot to mention.

These ruthless people believe that money is the major controlling factor for choosing who will live and who shall die.

They suffer from the illusion that they alone should have full control over all earthly functions including weather, electronic polarity, the ozone layer and human mind control. They're only kidding themselves.

I say to humanity, "If you wish for a less catastrophic world, direct your ambitions toward gentle kindness with respect to all living things."

All creatures, including man, will eventually succumb to the laws of nature and finally to God. Keep that in mind!

Lynn McLean

Letter: Farmland At Risk

My late husband, my five children and I have been farming in the San Joaquin Valley since the mid seventies. My children are now second generation growers.

During this period of time we have seen a very disturbing loss of prime level farm land being covered by houses.

When we bought our Elderwood Heights property it was and still is zoned by the county as suitable for one acre home sites. Eight years ago we began working with the county on a development plan for this property. We complied with every requirement paying qualified experts for each test required. We redesigned and reduced the number of lots as requested and are providing 42 acres of open space for recreational use, and a walking and equestrian trail around the entire perimeter.

We have done exactly what the county development plan considers desirable. Is it not better to have homes on land admittedly difficult to farm than to destroy forever more prime farm land for the same number of homes?

Lilian Roberts Kimble

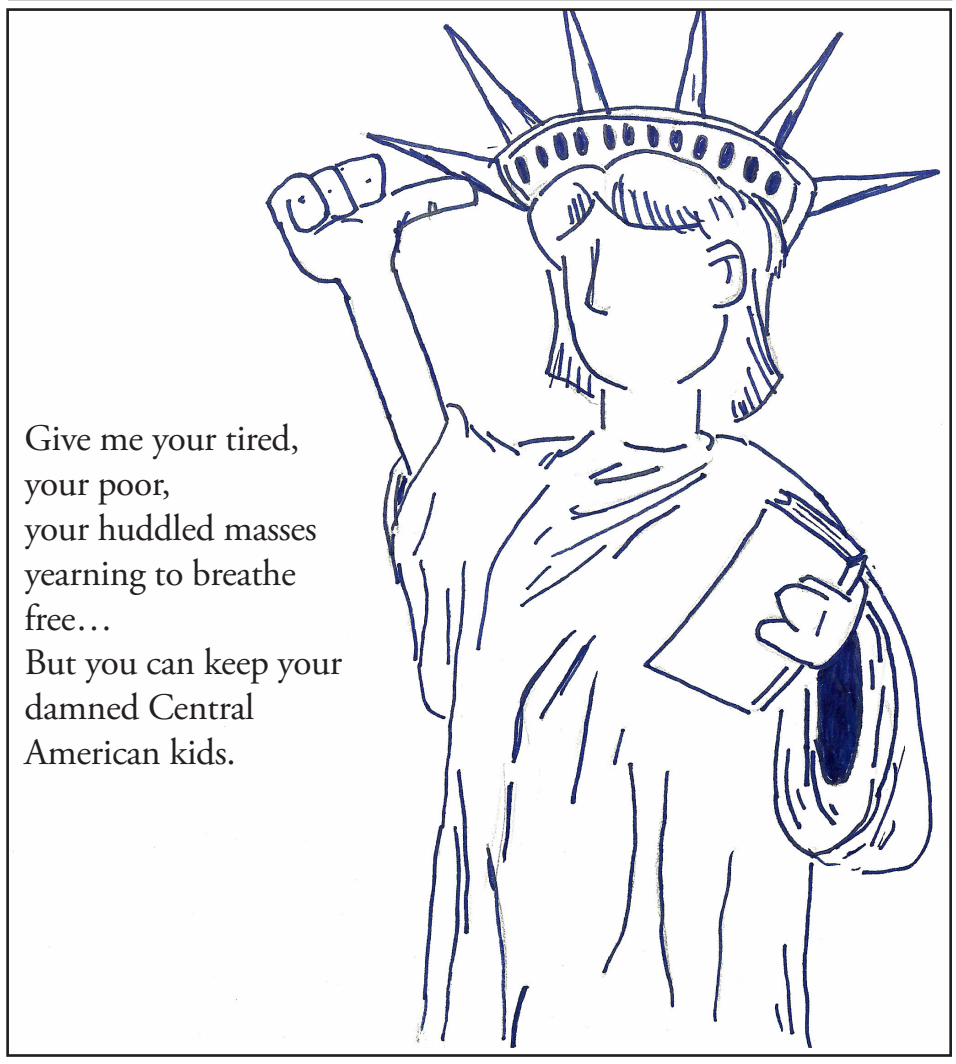
Online Comments
Comment at ourvalleyvoice.com or fb.me/ourvalleyvoice

"VOTE THEM OUT OF OFFICE STARTING WITH MIKE ENNIS THIS NOVEMBER. IF HE WINS ONE MORE TIME, THE COUNTY WILL BE PAYING HIM FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE. PEOPLE, VOTE THEM OUT."

*— **AL MANENTE**, on **Letter: Supervisors – 'Get It' or 'Get Out'***

Black Tie

Alex Oldenbourg



Give me your tired,
your poor,
your huddled masses
yearning to breathe
free…
But you can keep your
damned Central
American kids.

Veteran's Corner

Retired Military Appreciation Day at NAS Lemoore

Joe Wright

Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore is hosting its annual Retired Military Appreciation Day on Saturday, September 13, from 9am to 1pm, starting at the base theater. The purpose of the event is to provide updates covering benefits for military retirees and their spouses.

The Kings County Veterans Service Office, along with representatives from the Naval Hospital, Tri-Care, Personnel Support Detachment (PSD), Legal Department, Delta Dental, Navy Exchange, CALVET, Navy Commissary, San Joaquin Valley Veterans and others will be providing valuable information and will be available to answer questions from event participants. The keynote speaker will be Hillary Perez-Godfrey, Beneficiary Services and Education Representative for United Health Care (TRICARE).

All retired military, spouses and widow/widowers are invited to attend. For more information, call the Fleet and Family Support Center at 998-4042. To obtain access to NAS Lemoore, it is important to have a current ID card (PSD will be available to assist with new ID card needs).

The Kings County Veterans Service Office issues Veteran ID cards to honorably discharged veterans. Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office webpage at www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230; call 852-2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.

Like us on Facebook
View and like us at fb.me/ourvalleyvoice
Follow us on Twitter
@ourvalleyvoice
Send us your Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Now that the *Valley Voice* is receiving many more letters than previously, we'd like to state the obvious by saying that it is not our policy to edit your editorials. Bear this in mind, therefore, when writing us--so please be lucid.

By mail:
208 W. Main, Ste. E, Visalia, CA 93291

By email:
editor@ourvalleyvoice.com

Science-Infused Curriculum Reaches over 6,500 Valley Students

Tulare County Office of Education

This summer, the Migrant Education Program oversaw instructional services at 42 Tulare and Kings County school districts – the largest number coordinated by the program in recent years. Over 6,500 migrant education students (pre-K to age 22) were served by highly qualified teachers on school sites and at home.

The focus of summer programs was on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Woven throughout the language arts and mathematics curriculum were science-related studies.

"We were provided dynamic and intensive training by Assistant Superintendent Charlene Stringham and ERS curriculum specialists Michelle French and Jared Marr on integrating STEM into all subject matters," said Migrant Education Administrator Tony Velásquez.

For students who were unable to attend classes at a school site, migrant staff, under the supervision of certificated personnel, provided instruction at home. The program also provided services to pre-K children and piloted three pre-K bi-literacy classes – one in Kings County and two in Tulare County. Older students had the opportunity to connect with colleges and universities through programs at West Hills College, Lemoore, Fresno State and California State University, Channel Islands.

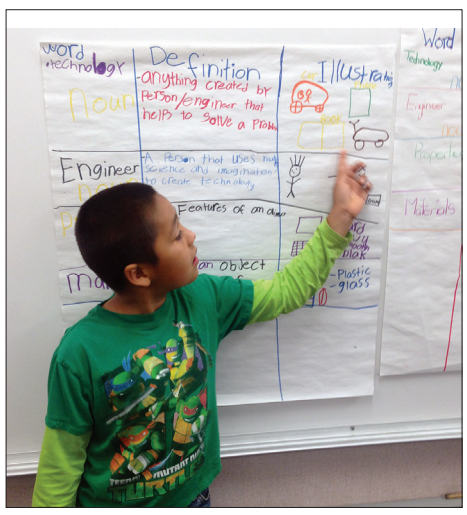
In each of these programs, Migrant Education administrators conduct thorough pre and post-evaluations to monitor the progress the students made over the summer.

"The program has done a great job of transitioning through changes in Migrant Education in recent years while continuing to deliver the high quality, individualized instruction these students need to be successful," said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

This article is reprinted by permission from The News Gallery, published by the Tulare Office of Education.

The Migrant Education program also organized pre-K classrooms for students preparing to enter their first year of school.

Over 6,500 students were served in school sites or at home by the Migrant Education program this summer.



This summer, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curriculum was infused into all areas of Migrant Education instruction, including language arts and mathematics.

JOIN US FOR THE
VISALIA RESCUE MISSION'S
ANNUAL
BANQUET

Date: Tuesday - September 9, 2014

Location: Gateway Church
1100 S. Sowell St.
Visalia, CA 93277

Details: Doors open at 5:30pm
Program begins at 6pm
Catered by **FUGAZZI'S**

$30 / TICKET
$210 / TABLE

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or at the VRM office between 8am - 5pm
500 E. Race Ave, Visalia, CA 93291

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Valley Voice
Valley Scene

Tulare County Fair Features Fun Food, Wild Rides and Great Music

Staff Reports

Fairgoers of all ages will find plenty to see and do at the 2014 Tulare County Fair, September 10-14, including many attractions free with gate admission.

Fairgoers will learn about Tulare County's dairy industry while watching a sculptor turn 500 pounds of butter into a full-size cow sculpture. Walk on the Wild Side will display a variety of exotic animals, kid-friendly cooking demonstrations will be offered daily at the vintage camping display, and children can experience animals of all kinds at the petting zoo.

Fair week kicks off with Metalachi, offering heavy metal and comedy on the Budweiser Stage on opening day, Wednesday, September 10; followed by rhythm and blues/funk ensemble Morris Day and The Time on Thursday, September 11; classic rocker Eddie Money on Friday, September 12; up-and-coming country star JT Hodges on Saturday, September 13; and Tower of Power on Sunday, September 14. All concerts begin at 8pm, and are free with paid admission.

Throughout fair week, local entertainers will perform on community stages, including local favorites Branded Heart. Fairgoers can enjoy a hypnotist, drum performances, magic shows, puppet shows and children will be able to go onstage to perform in "The Cutest Show on Earth." A tractor pull, on Thursday, September 11, and a Motorcycle Thrill Show, Friday, September 12, are also offered free with gate admission.

The Replacement Heifer Sale will take place on Friday, September 12, and the Junior Livestock Auction will be held on Saturday, September FFA and 4H students from throughout Tulare County show their animals, which are auctioned to the highest bidder to help defray the costs of raising the animal, and provide seed money for the next year's animal. The auction generated gross sales of nearly $453,000 at the 2013 Fair – up from $404,000 in 2012.

Fairgoers of all ages will find plenty to see and do at the Tulare County Fair.

The always-popular Destruction Derby will be held at 6pm on Saturday, September 13. For tickets and information, visit www.tcfair.org.

The fair's carnival will be set up in three distinct areas this year: Cub Country, for very young fairgoers, Kiddie Land for older children, and the midway for teens and adults. The three areas, which will offer about 40 rides, will ensure carnival fun for people of all ages. Pre-sale

FAIR continued on **23** »

Buzz Con to Bring Fun & Games to Agri-Center September 13-14

Staff Reports

Buzz Con, a two-day pop culture convention, will be held at the International AgriCenter in Tulare on September 13-14.

The event is billed as "a video gaming and cosplay (costume) event," according to Joe Chris, one of the three Buzz Con planners. He added that the show is also about science fiction, comics, television, sports cards, movies, horror, and toys such as Barbie dolls and Hot Wheels. There will also be anime, with several of the vendors from the recent Fresno anime show expected to have booths.

Virginia Hey is scheduled to be at Buzz Con.

"It's going to be a variety of everything," said Chris, adding that the video gaming part of the show is going to be "big." ProLab Gaming from Bakersfield is planning seven tournaments.

Celebrity guests include: Virginia Hey, an Australian actress best known for her role as Pa'u Zotoh Zhaan on the science fiction TV series "Farscape"; David Franklin, Captain Braca on "Farscape"; Jennifer Hale, Commander Shepard from "Mass Effect," and Cinderella, Princess Morebucks and Ms. Keane from "The Powerpuff Girls"; and Kimberly Brooks, whose videogame credits include Ashley Williams in the "Mass Effect" series and Na'vi in "Avatar: The Game."

For more information, visit www.tularebuzzcon.com.

14th Annual Hanford Blues and Roots Festival Set for September 20th

The 14th Annual Hanford Blues and Roots Festival sponsored by Main Street Hanford will be held on Saturday, September 20, from 5:30-10:00pm under the stars in Hanford Civic Park. Bringing your dancing shoes, as well as blankets, and lawn chairs are recommended.

The event will feature a beer and wine garden sponsored by Budweiser, as well as barbecue and other food vendors. Admission is free.

The headliner this year will be the Lara Price Blues Revue with the Sweet Nectars. Price has shared the bill with R&B legends such as Etta James, James Brown, Buddy Guy and Leon Russell. Her voice is smoky, lonely, sexy and powerful.

Local blues favorites Deja Blues with the Central Valley Blues All Stars including Trey Tosh, Phil Wimer and Richie Blue will kick off the show. These local blues musicians have played with or shared the stage with blues artists such as Tab Benoit, Coco Montoya and Tommy Castro.

No pets, bottles, cans or ice chests are allowed. For additional information, call Main Street Hanford at 582-9457.

Mike Tyson to Share 'Truth' at Tachi Palace

Boxer Mike Tyson will share untold stories, peeling back layers of tragedy and public turmoil while unfolding his tale of triumph and survival, in an up-close-and-personal setting at Tachi Palace on Thursday, September 11th.

Mike Tyson

The show, "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth" features never-before-seen images and videos complimented by an electrifying six-piece band as Tyson delivers vignettes from his life, experiences as a professional athlete and controversies in between.

Tickets for the 7:30pm show are $35, $55 and $115, and available online at tachipalace.com/entertainment.php

Barn Theater to Present Charlotte Pendragon's 'World of Illusion'

Internationally known illusionist – and hometown girl – Charlotte Pendragon will perform at The Barn Theater in Porterville September 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 7:30pm, and September 13, 14, 21 and 22 at 2:15pm.

Charlotte Pendragon

Pendragon has been awarded some of the most coveted titles in magic, including being twice named winner of the "Magician of the Year" Award by the Academy of Magical Arts, home of the Magic Castle in Hollywood. She has been stunning audiences worldwide, including performances for President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush, Queen Elizabeth II, the Prince of Wales and the Royal Family of Monaco.

She has starred and been featured in over 14 prime time magic specials on NBC, CBS, ABC, FOX, PBS, Disney, Showtime, The Family Channel, VH1, E Entertainment and on CNN's "Showbiz Today," as well as starring in Disney's magic TV special, which aired worldwide.

The show features several new magic effects, including her own version of making at least a dozen rabbits appear out of nowhere, and a daring new twist of the illusion she helped make famous, the metamorphosis, which she holds a world record in The Guinness Book of World Records. Joining her on stage is Randy and the Ragrunts, "The World's Most Unique Singing Trio," featuring the original music and puppet wizardry of Randy Lessley. Following each matinee performance will be Charlotte's Magic School for Kids where children 12 and under who attend the school will receive a free gift.

Tickets (kids $10, adults $15, students/seniors $10) are on sale at the Barn Theater Box Office (310-7046). For more information, visit barntheater.porterville.com or charlottependragon.net.

Camp Zap Youth Foundation to Host Annual Luau on September 20

Staff Reports

The fifth annual Camp Zap Aloha Luau will held at Zapalac Ranch, 25600 Avenue 324, Lemon Cove, 5:30-9:30pm on Saturday, September 20, to raise funds for The Camp Zap Youth Foundation. The event will feature Hawaiian food, tropical drinks, a silent auction, Polynesian dancers, a photo booth and a showcase of crafts by children.

Tickets are $35 and funds raised will be used to advance the camp's purposes and activities, such as the purchase of tents, sleeping bags, sports equipment and to provide food during the campout. Donations are welcome and greatly appreciated.

Camp Zap is a two-day campout held four times a year for youth from the surrounding rural areas of Tulare County. Located in the beautiful hills of Lemon Cove, Camp Zap provides an opportunity for youth to interact with other children they might not otherwise meet, in a safe environment.

The Camp Zap Aloha Luau will feature Polynesian dancers.

What started out as a one-day picnic invitation from former Police Chief John Zapalac to the children of Woodlake has grown into a powerful tool in educating youth from all over Tulare County on the importance of staying in school and making positive choices. Children get to experience the joy of camping, shooting safety, horseback riding, hiking, canoeing and other team-building games such as scavenger hunts, obstacle races, and arts and crafts.

Part of the evening activities include guest speakers by members of the community, such as juvenile court judges, former gang members and even world-famous musicians who encourage the children to strive to be the best they can be, make smart choices and convey the message that anything is possible if you try, and work hard. Their focus is also Camp Zap's motto: "Life… It's all about choices."

With the help of the Woodlake Rotary, Kiwanis, FHCN Americorps and many other volunteers, Camp Zap has touched the lives of over 9,000 kids. All meals are provided for the children and they have the opportunity to spend the night outdoors in tents supplied by Camp Zap.

"I think every child should experience the joy of camping," says Chief Zapalac.

For more information, visit www.campzap.com.

Mama Durant and son, Kevin Durant

'Mama Durant' to Speak at 'Reaching Higher' Fundraiser on September 20

Staff Reports

"Reaching Higher," a dinner auction featuring special guest speaker Wanda Pratt, mother of NBA superstar Kevin Durant, will be held at Tulare First Baptist Church, 1820 N. Gem St. in Tulare, beginning at 5:30pm on September 20th.

"Mama Durant" will share her testimony of raising her sons in a high-risk area, how her faith kept them safe, and how programs like Reaching Higher helped her sons stay out of trouble while getting the help they needed to be successful.

The event will be catered by Bravo Farms and feature a silent and live auction conducted by Dave Macedo.

Tickets are $20 per person. Business sponsorships are also available. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/ReachingHigherTC, call 686-8576 ext. 213, or visit the church office.

Reaching Higher, an outreach program started by Tulare Community Church 10 years ago, serves students through different partnerships with local churches in the community.

NEXT DEADLINE:
11 SEPTEMBER, 2014

Waddie Mitchell to Return to Mavericks Coffee House In Visalia on September 11

Staff Reports

Mavericks Coffee House will present a 7pm performance by cowboy poetry pioneer Waddie Mitchell on Thursday, September 11.

Mitchell has released five CDs of cowboy poetry, beginning with *Lone Driftin Rider* (1992), *Buckaroo Poet*, *Waddie Mitchell Live*, *That No Quit Attitude and Sweat Equity* (2014). His joint effort with award-winning singer-songwriter Juni Fisher on *Who They Are* is already considered a classic.

Waddie Mitchell

Mitchell was among the cowboy poets invited to appear on "The Tonight Show" with host Johnny Carson. He has also appeared on "Larry King Live," "Good Morning America," TNN, The History Channel, PBS and CMT. He's been featured in publications such as: *People*, *Life*, *USA Today*, *Fortune*, *National Geographic*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Review Journal*. He was also on the cover of *Western Horseman* magazine.

For tickets ($25) or more information, call Mavericks at 624-1400, or stop by at 238 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia.

Briefs & Shorts

Derek Mazer, owner and exhibit director of **Tulare Sci-Fi Con**, has announced that next year's event will be held on March 7-8. Booths for celebrities, artists, fan groups and non-profit press will be free for both days. "I am currently working on a new website and updating the forms for 2015," said Mazer. "They will be online by October 1, and we will begin signing up vendors at that time."

The Arts Consortium has issued a call for floral designers for the **Taste the Arts Festival** to be held on Saturday, October 11 in Downtown Visalia. All Central Valley residents are invited to create a floral design that embodies the theme of the event. Prizes are $500, $300 and $200. For more information, call 802-3266.

College of the Sequoias is offering "**Backpacking in the Sierras,**" a class that includes a three-day weekend in the Sierras October 3-5. The cost is $100. For more information about the class, which includes four Tuesday evening sessions in September, call 733-7442.

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The Wine & Wags Gala has become a popular event for pet lovers.

Wine & Wags Gala to Benefit New Adoption and Education Center

Valley Oak SPCA will host its fifth annual Wine & Wags Gala and Auction on Saturday, September 13.

The evening features wine and food tasting, and a live and silent auction. Tickets are $50 per person.

Call 713-4694 for event details or to reserve your tickets.

Proceeds from this event support Valley Oak SPCA's efforts for the new Adoption and Education Center, which will provide a safe environment for dogs, cats and other animals, allow the ability to house more animals for adoption, treat more sick and injured animals, care for litters of puppies and kittens until they are ready for adoption, and offer various classes, seminars, programs and gatherings for pet owners and animal lovers.

Arts Visalia Hosts Invitational Sculpture Exhibition

Kevin Bowman

One of the most anticipated exhibitions held at Arts Visalia is our annual sculptural exhibition titled "That Extra Dimension," featuring recent works by 35 artists from throughout Central California.

"Oak Grove" by George Smith

The primary goal behind this exhibition is to shine a spotlight on the array of styles and working methods employed by contemporary artists working here in Central California. Traditional sculptural materials like wood, marble, metals or ceramics are at use in many pieces, while other artworks in the show may be constructed of less traditional sculpture materials. What is consistent throughout the works in the show is the quality of craftsmanship and skill on display.

While many of the artists with work in the exhibition have been in past installments of this exhibition, this year's show will also feature several new faces. Among these will be the beautiful, Asian-inspired ceramics of Kingsburg artist Jim Gregory, figurative sculpture by Santa Barbara artist Barbara Federman, and delicate sculptural pieces by Visalian Fern Allen.

In all, the show includes works by the following artists: Mark Ahlstrand, Fern Allen, Richard Arenas, Toni Best, Derek Borges, Diane Burke, Carole Clum, Antonio Cuellar, Mark Eaton, Barbara Federman, Richard Flores, John Friedrich, Edward Gillum, Jim Gregory, David Griswold, Anne Haxton, David Hicks, Jerry Jonnum, Shirley Keller, Kris Kessey, Paul Lagatutta, Moni Mauch, Sam McKinney, Joe Morel, Esther Perez, Mike Perez, Marn Reich, Joan Siebel, George Smith, John Sundstrom, Sherley Tucker, Gregory Tune, Linda Victory and Russell Wright.

That Extra Dimension 2014 will be on display at Arts Visalia, 214 E. Oak Ave., Visalia, September 5-26, with an opening reception on Friday evening, September 5th, from 6-8pm. Attendance is free and open to the public.

Gallery hours are noon to 5:30pm Wednesday through Saturday. For more information, call 739-0905 or visit www.artsvisalia.org.

Kevin Bowman is the director of Arts Visalia and an instructor of art at College of the Sequoias.

Linnell Camp Focus of Tulare County Library Exhibit

Tulare County Library is currently hosting "Through a Compassionate Lens: Life in Linnell Camp, 1940s-60s," a month-long free exhibit, which provides a glimpse into the lives of migrant men, women and children living in the farm labor camp through a combination of photos and text.

Photo by Julius "Jim" Stein. (Used by permission of the Annie R. Mitchell History Room.)

The exhibit features reproductions of photos and slides taken by Julius "Jim" Stein, during his time as housing project manager of Linnell and Woodville camps. Stein's photos are accompanied by details about the camps and first-hand accounts from people who lived there, giving a snapshot into life in the camp during its early years.

All photos and slides are from the library's Annie R. Mitchell History Room collection, and information for the exhibit is derived from oral histories and primary source materials, especially local newspaper articles.

The exhibition runs until Thursday, October 2, on the second floor of the Visalia Branch Library, and is open Tuesdays through Fridays, 1-5pm. The Visalia Branch Library is located at 200 W. Oak Ave., Visalia.

MUSIC

Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25 – 3's A Crowd – 7-10pm
On Thursdays, 3's A Crowd performs at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Sept. 4 – Mundy and Tiperary Stew – 8-10:45pm
Mundy and Tipperary Stew will perform at the Cellar Door, 101 W. Main Street, Visalia. 21+ only. Tickets, $10, available at Ticketweb.com.

Sept. 5 – Andrew J. Magnuson at Blues, Brews & BBQ – 6-10pm
Budweiser will present this free concert at Garden Street Plaza in Downtown Visalia. Ice cold drinks and BBQ will be available for purchase.

Sept. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27– The Crawdads – 7-10pm
Every Friday and Saturday, Keith and the Crawdads perform at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Sept. 5 – Springville Concerts in the Park – 7-9pm
Jerry Hall will perform. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and refreshments. For information, visit thecenterofspringville.com.

Sept. 5 – R.W. Hampton – 7pm
R.W. Hampton will perform at Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. Tickets $30. For information, visit mavericks-coffeehouse.com.

Sept. 5 – Run4Cover – 9pm
Run4Cover will perform at the Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. 21+. Tickets, $6. Information available at cellardoor101.com.

Sept. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27– The 2nd Floor Night Club – 10pm-2am
Every Friday and Saturday, the second floor of Crawdaddys Visalia offers deejays and dancing. For info, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Sept. 6 – TCSO Season Kick-Off Pops Concert – 8pm
The Tulare County Symphony will open its 2014-15 season with the traditional "Pops" concert under the stars at Zumwalt Park in Tulare. Gates open at 5pm for early birds bringing a picnic with them. The concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are $20 for adults and free for youth 12 and under with a paid adult. Up-front tables can be reserved for $250. Call 732-8600 or visit tularecountysymphony.org.

Sept. 6 – Strangelove (The Ultimate Depeche Mode Tribute) – 7:45-10pm
Strangelove, a Depeche Mode tribute band, will perform at the Cellar Door, 101 W. Main Street, Visalia. Kraftwerk will also perform at this 21+ concert. Tickets, $10, available at Ticketweb.com.

Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28– Sunday Jam – 7-10pm
On Sunday nights, a jam session with the Crawdad's is featured at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. Special guests and local talent have been known to sit in. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30 – The Crawdads with Cody Torres – 7-10pm
On Tuesdays, Cody Torres performs with the Crawdads at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For info, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Sept. 10 – Canaan Smith Performs at Concerts in the Park – 7pm
Canaan Smith will perform at Hanford Civic Park. Bring blankets and lawn chairs because no seating is provided. Smith is promoting his second charted song, "Love You Like That."

Sept. 10, 17, 24 – KJUG Country Music night – 7-10pm
Every Wednesday, David Laswell and the Rounders perform at KJUG Country Music Night at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Sept. 11 – Waddie Mitchell – 7pm
Waddie Mitchell will perform at Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. For information, visit mavericksccoffeehouse.com.

Sept. 10 – Metalachi – 8pm
Metalachi will perform at the Tulare County Fair. This band is known for sombreros and extended classical violin solos sandwiched between covers of Guns 'n' Roses, Led Zeppelin and Metallica. The concert is free with paid admission. Fair tickets are $8, general admission, $5 for children 6-12. For information, visit tcfair.org.

Sept. 11 – Morris Day and the Time – 8pm
Morris Day and the Time will perform at the Tulare County Fair. This rhythm and blues/funk ensemble is led by Morris Day, whose career began in a band with Prince. The concert is free with paid admission. For information, visit tcfair.org.

Sept. 12 – Eddie Money – 8pm
Eddie Money will perform at the Tulare County Fair. The would-be cop turned classic rocker has recorded over a dozen albums of his own as well as projects in television and film and always draws a crowd at the Tulare County Fair. The concert is free with paid admission. For information, visit tcfair.org.

Sept. 13 – Sierra Traditional Jazz Club
The High Sierra Jazz Band will perform nostalgic music as it was played in the mid-1900s at the Three Rivers Club. Tickets for concert only is $10 for non-members payable at the door. Members are free. For information, visit highsierrajazzband.com.

Sept. 13 – Visalia Concerts in the Park – 6-8pm
On the second Saturday of every month through November, Visalia Parks & Recreation present Concerts in the Park. Concerts are held at different parks throughout the city. Brad Wilson, playing Smokin' & Rockin' Blues, will perform at Sunset Park in Visalia. The events are free. For info, call 713-4365.

Sept. 13 – Taco Wagon & Geronimo & The Scalpers – 8-10pm
Sound n' Vision Foundation will present a free early show with Taco Wagon and Geronimo & The Scalpers at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St. Must be 21 and older to attend. For information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Sept. 13 – JT Hodges – 8pm
JT Hodges will perform at the Tulare County Fair. Hodges saw success with his first three singles, including "Goodbyes Made You Mine," and he enjoyed a star turn in the Hallmark Channel's "Finding Christmas." The concert is free with paid admission. For information, visit tcfair.org.

Sept. 13 – Visalia Concerts in the Park – 6-8pm
Five Live will perform at Lions Park as part of Visalia's Concert in the Park Series. On the second Saturday of every month through November, Visalia Parks & Recreation present Concerts in the Park. The events are free. For information, call 713-4365.

Sept. 18 – Ed Bell – 6pm
Ed Bell, bluegrass guitarist and balladeer, will perform in the City Council Chambers at the Tulare Public Library, 491 North M Street. Audience participation in Ed Bell's Old Time Sing-Along is encouraged.

Sept. 19 – Sea Knight – 9:30pm
Sound n' Vision Foundation presents Sea Knight, Rose Pilgrims and Richfield at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St. Tickets for the 21+ concert are $7. For information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Sept. 20 – 5 Live – 8-10pm
Sound n' Vision Foundation presents 5 Live at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St. Tickets for the 21+ concert are $5. For information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Sept. 26 – The Tastemaker Magazine Launch Party – 9pm
Wakeblooms, Børns and Galant will perform a free 21+ concert to celebrate the launch of The Tastemaker Magazine at The Cellar Door in Visalia. For info, visit snvfoundation.org.

Sept. 26 – Tipperary Stew – 6:30-8:30pm
Tipperary Stew performs Irish and Americana music and dance every fourth Friday at 210 Cafe, 210 W. Center, Visalia. For information, call 739-9010.

Sept. 27 – Concert on the Grass – 1:30-5pm
Three Rivers Performing Arts Institute will hold its annual Concert on the Grass at 44879 Dinely Drive. The concert takes place the last Saturday of September every year. The lineup includes Lindsay Guitars, Lance Canales, Trinitas Piano Trio of Visalia, and more. Bring a blanket and picnic at 1:30 for Casual Hour with live music. Admission is free. Donations accepted. For information, visit threeriversperformingarts.org.

Sept. 27 – William Close and the Earth Harp Collective – 2 & 7 pm
William Close and the Earth Harp Collective will perform at the L.J. Williams Theater in Visalia. Tickets are $25 and $35 at the evening show and $25 and $20 for the matinee, with student and senior discounts available. Tickets may be purchased online at the Visalia Education Foundation's web site, visaliaedfoundation.org. and through Ticketfly.com.

EVENTS

Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25 – Downtown Visalia Farmers Market – 5-8pm
Every Thursday through October, the downtown Visalia Farmers market features local produce, crafts, and prepared foods, entertainment and cooking demonstrations. The market is held in downtown Visalia on Church and Main streets. For information, visit visaliafarmersmarket.com.

Sept. 4, 11, 18 & 25 – Hanford Thursday Night Market Place – 5:30-9pm
Fresh produce, beer garden, live band, D.J., local vendors, kids activities and theme nights are featured every Thursday night through Sept. in downtown Hanford. Monsanto will be the featured entertainment. For information, visit mainstreethanford.com.

Sept. 4 – JDA Job Fair – 9am-2pm
Kings County Developers Association will host a Job Fair at the Hanford Civic Auditorium, 400 N. Douty St. For information contact dawn.head@co.kings.ca.us or jamesbradford@edd.ca.gov.

Sept. 4 – 9th Annual Making a Difference for Life Fundraising Banquet – 7pm
Former presidential candidate and U.S. Senator Rick Santorum will speak at Tulare-Kings Right to Life's 19th Annual Making a Difference for Life Fundraising Banquet at the Visalia Convention Center. Sponsorships for a table of 8 are $560; individual tickets may be purchased for $75. For information or to reserve a table, call 732-5000 or visit tkrl.org.

Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26 – Lemoore Friday Night Market – 5-9pm
Every Friday night, Downtown Lemoore Merchants Association hosts live music, beer garden, produce and vendors on D Street. For information, call 816-2554.

Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26 – Friday Night Market and Street Faire – 5:30-10pm
Every Friday March through November, the farmers market and over 200 vendors, entertainment, crafts and family-friendly activities are held in Street Brier Plaza in Lindsay. For information, visit thelindsaychamber.com.

Sept. 5 – Cal / OSHA Inspection Presentation - 11:30am-1:30pm
Greg Bird, CSP, Boretti, Inc. will present information on Cal/OSHA inspections at Marie Callender's Banquet Room 350 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia. Tickets, $50, include meal. Reservations can be made by calling 799-2332.

Sept. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 – Exeter Museum and Courthouse Gallery – 10-4pm
Exeter Museum and Courthouse Gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays for tours at 125 South B Street. For information, visit exeterhistoricalmuseum.com.

Sept. 5, Oct. 3 & Nov. 6 – Downtown Visalia's First Friday – 5:30-8:30pm
On the first Friday of each month, artists and businesses throughout Downtown Visalia come together to celebrate and share their art. A special project of the Arts Consortium, First

VENT CALENDAR

Friday is open to visual and performing artists on the first Friday of every month from March through November, weather permitting. It is free. A street car show and RC racetrack for children will be featured in September. More than 20 venues stretch across Visalia's downtown core and include Arts Visalia, The office of Downtown Visalians, Brandon-Mitchell Art Gallery, retail shops, restaurants, bars and office lobbies. For more information, visit theartsconsortium.org.

Sept. 6-7 – Rocky Mountain Gun Show
The Rocky Mountain Gun Show returns to the Visalia Convention Center.

Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 – Springville Farmers Market – 8am-12pm
The Springville Farmers Market is held year round every Saturday, weather permitting, in downtown Springville. On the first Saturday, additional artisans are featured. On the third Saturday there is a flea market. For information, call 539-1020.

Sept. 6 – Home Gardening Festival – 11am-3pm
UC Master Gardeners will provide information on gardening and water conservation at the Hanford Mall, JC Penney. For information, call 684-3325.

Sept. 6 – Happy Hearts 1st Annual Car Show
Happy Hearts will hold its first annual car show to benefit Children's Hospital Central California at Best Buy Market, 1300 W. Walnut Ave. The organization was created in memory of Heather Nugent who passed away on her 18th birthday from a car accident. For information, call 732-7981.

Sept. 6 – First Saturday Friends of the Library Used Book Sale – 10am-2pm
Tulare Public Library's First Saturday Friends of the Library Used Book Sale is held in the Library Cafe, 475 North M Street.

Sept. 6 – California Showdown II Car & Dog Show – 12-9pm
The 2nd Annual Hanford Parks and Recreation Old Illusions and Remyline Exclusive California Showdown will be held at Centennial Park in Hanford. Food vendors, music, splash pad, raffle prizes, horseshoe and volleyball tournaments will be featured. Cost is $10. Proceeds benefit the Hanford Parks and Recreation Scholarship Program. To register dog or car entries, visit bullyshow.com.

Sept. 6 – Tulare County Fair Rodeo – 6pm
Tulare County Fair will hold a kick-off week rodeo. A tri-tip cook off and Dutch oven cook-off will also be featured. Tickets $10. For information, visit tcfair.org.

Sept. 6 – Felipe Esparza
The 2010 winner of Last Comic Standing will perform at the Visalia Fox. Chris Storing and Rodrigo Torres will also be featured. Tickets, $20, are available at foxvisalia.org.

Sept. 6 – Kings Lions Club Luau 2014 – 6pm-12am
Kings Lions Club will host an authentic Polynesian Dinner Show at the Senior Citizens Center in Lemoore. Tickets, $35, limited to pre-sale only. Entertainment will be the Polynesian Club of Fresno and dancing to the sounds of DJ Erick. For tickets and information, call 924-4417.

Sept. 7 – Dennis Wong Memorial Race – 6am
In honor of Dennis Wong, one of Tulare's leading citizens and runners, a 5K run/walk and 1-mile kid's race will be held on Tulare's Santa Fe Trail. All entrants receive a goodie bag, a free entry into the Tulare County Fair and post-race refreshments. Adults will also receive a commemorative t-shirt. The race registration will begin at 6am at the intersection of Mooney Boulevard and Tulare Santa Fe Trail (behind Will Tiesiera Ford). The 5k begins at 7am and the walkers will start at 7:30. Entry forms are available at Tulare City Parks and Recreation Dept., 830 S. Blackstone St. Fees are $25 adults, $15 children. An additional $5 will be charged for those who register on the day of the race. For information, call 685-6100.

Sept. 8, 13, 20, 27 – Visalia Farmers Market – 8-11:30pm
Open year around, the market, corner of S. Mooney and W. Caldwell, offers fresh local produce, cooking demonstrations and entertainment every Saturday. For information, visit visaliafarmersmarket.com.

Sept. 8 – Financial Literacy: Banking 101 – 11:30am-12:30pm
The Porterville College Job, Entrepreneur, and Career (J.E.C.) Center will hold a Bank on it workshop in the P Theater, Room CA-4 with finance and Thirft's Tom Zarate. The workshop is free. To RSVP for a workshop call Job Development Specialist Martha Lozano at 791-2216.

Sept. 9 – They Get How Much Time Off for That? – 7:45-10am
Doug Larsen of Fishman, Larsen, Chaltraw & Zeitler will be the featured speaker at the Kings County Employer Advisory Council meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Building Upstairs Conference Room in Hanford. Larsen will discuss leave-of-absence laws. Donuts and coffee will be complementary. RSVP by Sept. 5. For reservations, call 852-2157.

Sept. 9 – Introduction to Lighting – 8:30am-12:30pm
This beginning-level lighting class looks at ways to reduce energy usage and costs in your business through the proper selection of incandescent, fluorescent and high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting systems. The free class will be held at the Southern California Edison Energy Education Center, 4175 S. Laspina St., Tulare. For information call 625-7126.

Sept. 9 – Women in Business – 12-1:30pm
Exeter Chamber of Commerce will host its Women in Business Networking event at East Meet West, 224 N. Kaweah Ave. Tickets are $15 in advance or $20 at the door. Lunch, program, networking and prizes are included. For information, call the Exeter Chamber 592-2919.

Sept. 10-14 – Tulare County Fair
The Tulare County Fair will offer a week of entertainment for the family, educational activities for children, the annual Junior Livestock Auction, fair food, fun rides and more. Admission is $8 for adults; $5 for children ages 6-12. Seniors 62 and older are admitted for $5 on Senior Day, Sept. 12. Visit tcfair.org for ongoing updates to the schedule of events.

Sept. 10 – US Army Recruiting Station Ribbon Cutting – 10-11am
The Visalia Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the U.S. Army Recruiting Station for Tulare County at 4343 W. Noble Ave. For information, visit visaliachamber.org.

Sept. 10 – Lemoore Chamber Luncheon – 12-1pm
Amanda Ballin will discuss personal information security and identity theft at the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce's September luncheon at Tachi Palace, Willow & Sequoia Banquet Room. Register in advance. Tickets are $12. Call 924-6401.

Sept. 10 – Tulare County Fair Commencement Parade – 10am
The 2014 Tulare County Fair commencement parade will honor Richard and Mary Borges as honorary grand marshals. The parade runs along Tulare Avenue and the Fair opens at 11am. For information, visit tcfair.org.

Sept. 10 – Scam Stopper with Connie Conway – 10am-12pm
Tulare Public Library is partnering with Assembly Woman Connie Conway's Office and the Contractors State License board to present a Scam Stopper seminar in City Council Chambers at the Tulare Public Library, 491 North M Street. There will be speakers from Connie Conway's Office, the State Contractors' License Board in Sacramento, the Department of Motor Vehicles, The US Postal Service and the District Attorney's Office. Information tables will be manned by HICAP and Kings Tulare Counties Agency on Aging and more. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

THEATER

Through Sept. 7 – Nunsense – 7:30-10pm
The Barn Theater in Porterville presents "Nunsense," the hilarious musical about the Little Sisters of Hoboken who are trying to raise enough money to bury the sisters who died from tainted soup. For information, visit barntheater.porterville.com.

Sept. 12 – The Outsiders - 5pm
The second Friday of each month, Tulare Public Library features a movie for adults in the Council Chambers at the Tulare Public Library, 491 North M Street.

Sept. 13 – War Comes Home Film Series – 2-4pm
The Visalia Branch Library will show "Glory" starring Denzel Washington in the Purple Room. For information, call 713-2707.

Sept. 17 – Tulare Public Library Movie - 2pm
"Casablanca" will be featured in the Council Chambers at the Tulare Public Library, 491 North M Street.

Sept. 24 – Tulare Public Library Movie - 2pm
"Chocolat" will be featured in the Council Chambers at the Tulare Public Library, 491 North M Street.

ART

Through Sept. 19 – Familia – 11
Works by Francisco Alonzo will be on display at the College of the Sequoias Fine Arts Gallery. The gallery is open from 11am to 4pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and from 11am to 7pm on Thursdays. For information, visit tinyurl.com/pfzgfop.

Through Sept. 23 – Dal Henderson Exhibit
A collection of works by artist Dal Henderson will be hosted by the Kings Art Center. For information, visit kingsartcenter.org.

Through Sept. 26 – That Extra Dimension 2014
An Invitational Sculpture and Functional Art Exhibition will be featured at Arts Visalia. The exhibit celebrates the work of artists of the Central California region who are known for their 3D or sculptural creations. For information, visit artsvisalia.org.

Sept. 5 – First Friday Reception – 6-8pm
Michael's Jewelry at 316 W. Main St, Visalia will host Main Gallery artist Deanna Saldana. The exhibit will be on display through Oct. 31. For information, contact deannasaldana40@gmail.com.

Sept. 5 – Porterville Art Walk – 5-8pm
On the first Friday of each month, a free self-guided tour of local artisans, galleries, art studios, museums and alternative art venues is featured. For information, visit portervilleartwalk.org.

Sept. 5 – Two Brothers Art Show Reception – 5:30-8pm
Casey and Ryan Supple, brothers who are students at College of the Sequoias, will open their art exhibit at the Brandon-Mitchell Gallery in the Spiritual Awareness Center, 117 S. Locust, Visalia (one block south of Main Street), as part of the First Friday art walk in Downtown Visalia. The exhibit will run through Oct. 3. The gallery is open during First Friday art walks and by appointment. For information, call 625-2441.

Sept. 5 – Images from Near and Far Artists Reception – 6-8pm
The art of Linda Hengst and Jeri Burzin will be on exhibit through October. A reception to launch the exhibit will be held at Sue Sa's Clubhouse, 699 W. Center St. in Visalia. For information, visit maingalleryvisalia.com.

Sept. 6 – 1st Saturday Wild About Wildlife – 11am-5pm
Artists of Three Rivers have joined together to create a day of food, fun and art on the first Saturday of every month featuring artists, restaurants, gift shops, galleries and more. Watch the artist paint or listen to musicians or storytellers. For information, visit 1stsaturdaytr.com.

Sept. 10, 24 – Crafty Corner: Knit and Crochet Group – 10:30am-12pm
Learn and practice fiber arts and meet-up with other like-minded people. The group meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Visalia Branch Library. For information, call 713-2703.

Sept. 12 - Oct 2 – Through a Compassionate Lens: Life in Linnell Camp, 1940s-60s – 1-5pm
Photos and slides taken by Julius "Jim" Stein during his time as housing project manager of Linnell and Woodville Camps will be on exhibit on the second floor of the Visalia Branch Library outside the History Room. For information, call 713-2723.

See more events online
ourvalleyvoice.com

"3 Amigos" by Linda Hengst

Lindsay Museum and Gallery to Present 'Synergy' Art Show

The Lindsay Art Association and Cultural Arts Council will present "Synergy," a group art show at the Lindsay Museum and Gallery, 165 N. Gale Hill, Lindsay, starting on Saturday, September 13, with a reception from 5-7pm. In addition to appetizers and beverages, members of the Lindsay High School guitar honor group will play.

The art show will feature paintings in oil, acrylics, water color and pastels, photography, and an assortment of beautifully decorated gourds. Artists who will be showing their work include: Betty Berk, (paintings), Toni Best (gourds), Jeri Burzin (photography), Becky Ballew Nava (photography), Linda Hengst (paintings), Deborah Nolan (paintings), Joy Collier (paintings), and Ginny Wilson (photography).

The concept of "synergy" applies to the works that will be submitted by each artist, as people view them individually and together. It also applies to the entire exhibit being assembled as an unusual grouping of art by unique individuals in an especially beautiful gallery setting. The art itself, as well as its location, generates a special "energy" unique to this particular exhibit.

Gallery hours are noon to 4pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 562-2684.

'ART On FIRE' to Return This Fall

In the fall of 2012, Arts Visalia spearheaded the painting of 20 fire hydrants up and down Visalia's Main Street. The project, called "ART on FIRE," had a dual purpose of adding color to the downtown while also raising funds to support Arts Visalia, the community's main visual art center.

Artists submitted design proposals, which were then painted on the hydrants throughout our beautiful downtown. The project turned out to be quite a success and now, two years later, plans are in place to do it again.

New design proposals are being sought from artists for a new batch of fire hydrants, which will be painted in late October and early November. Artists may download the proposal guidelines at artsvisalia.org or stop by the gallery to pick up a copy.

Sponsors are also being sought for each painted hydrant to help support Arts Visalia's year-round calendar of art programs for the community. For sponsorship information, contact Arts Visalia at 739-0905 or artsvisalia@sbcglobal.net.

Arts Visalia is located at 214 E. Oak Ave. in downtown Visalia. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 5:30pm.

Deanna Saldana will showcase her artwork at Michael's Custom Jewelry in Downtown Visalia through October.

The exhibition will feature original works spanning 15 years, including several new works that will be on display for the first time. Pictured above is "Hey Mom". An artist's reception will be held during First Friday on September 5th starting at 5pm.

COMMUNITY

Through Sept. 19 – Chronic Disease Self-Management Classes – 10am-12pm
Every Friday, chronic disease self-management classes are offered for adults with ongoing health conditions like arthritis, heart disease, depression and high blood pressure. Friends, family members and caregivers are also welcome. The classes will be held at the Visalia Health Care Center, 2611 N. Dinuba Blvd. For information, call 624-8486.
Through September – American Passports
The Tulare Public Library is a passport application acceptance facility assisting people in getting their American passport. The hours of availability are: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm; Fridays from 11am to 1pm and 2 to 6pm; and Saturdays from 11am to 2pm.

Through Oct. 11 – Kiwanis Maserati Raffle
The Kiwanis Club of Exeter Foundation is raffling a 1986 Chrysler RC Convertible by Maserati to raise funds for the Schroth Park playground. Drawing will be held at the Exeter Fall Festival Oct. 11. Tickets, $35 each or 3 for $100, are available at ABC Bookkeeping and Tax Services, Nielsen & Associates Insurance Agency and the Exeter Chamber of Commerce.

Sept. 4-6 – Faith Tabernacle of Exeter Family Forum
Jason Carr and Dr. James Hughes will be the featured speakers at the Exeter Family Forum. The free event features refreshments and childcare provided at no charge. Faith Tabernacle of Exeter is located at 515 S. Filbert. For information, call 559-592-2862.

Sept. 4 – Cancer is Dinner Talk – 5:30pm
On the first Thursday of each month, Kaweah Delta Health Care District hosts this support group at Sequoia Regional Cancer Center, 4945 W. Cypress Ave. For information, visit Kaweahdelta.org.

Sept. 4 – Visalia Diabetes Support Group – 5:30-7pm
The Kaweah Delta Health Care District support group meets at Kaweah Delta Multiservice Center, 402 W. Acequia. For information, visit Kaweahdelta.org.

Sept. 4 – Prepared Childbirth Classes – 7pm
The Kaweah Delta Health Care District offers childbirth classes at Kaweah Delta Multiservice Center, 402 W. Acequia. For information, visit Kaweahdelta.org.

Sept. 5-7 – GOATEE IX Retreat
Hume Lake and Iron's Ministry will host 1,000 men at this year's GOATEE IX, (Guys Outdoor Adventure Teaching Eating Encouraging Succeeding). The event is open to churches and the general public. For information, call Outreach Pastor Nick Anthony at 740-4230.

Sept. 5 – Valley Oak SPCA Surgeries Appointments
Valley Oak SPCA Spay and Neuter Clinic will offer surgeries on Sept. 6 at 2622 E. Main Street. For appointments, call 741-1121 before Sept. 5.

Sept. 5 – First Friday with a Physician – 12–1:30pm
On the First Friday each month, Adventist Medical Center in Hanford hosts a physician seminar series. For information, call 589-2032.

Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26 – Family FootGolf Fridays – 5-7pm
A new 18-hold FootGolf course is available for Families at the Valley Oak Golf Course. To ice the course, each family member will need a size-five soccer ball. Cost is $40 for a family of four, each extra member is $5, or $140 for all Friday nights in September.

Sept. 5 & 19 – Overdrive eBook Instruction – 5:30-6:30pm
Every other Thursday, Tulare Public Library offers classes on how to take advantage of the thousands of eBooks available through its Overdrive App. To register, call 685-4503 or stop by the information desk.

Sept. 6 – Saturday Pet Vaccination Clinic – 9-11am
Valley Oak SPCA will offer a vaccination and microchip clinic at Valley Oak SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic, 2622 E. Main Street. No appointment is needed for vaccinations or microchips. All dogs and cats over the age of 3 months should be vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccinations cost $12, other vaccinations for cats and dogs are $14-$15. Puppy and kitten packages are available. Microchips $35. Vaccinations and microchips are also available Monday-Friday, 9am-noon. For information, visit vospca.org/vet-services/vaccinations.

Sept. 6 – Birth Babies & Beyond Fair – 10am-4pm
The Visalia Birth Network and Improving Birth will present this event at Riverway Sports Park for parents and parents-to-be. Shopping, prizes, resources, food, bounce house, music,, face-painting and a TCBF 'Baby Cafe' are featured. For information, visit rallytoimprovebirth.com or visaliabirthnetwork.org.

Sept. 6 & 16 – Young Lives Club - 6:30 - 8pm
The Young Lives Club, a support group for teen moms and dads, meets on the first and third Tuesdays each month at Woodlake Presbyterian, 600 W. Narajo. Intergenerational games: cards, board games, dominoes and more are featured. For information, call 584-8460.

Sept. 8 – Loss of Spouse Grief Support – 10:30am
Kaweah Delta Health Care District offers a support group at Quail Park. For information, visit Kaweahdelta.org.

Sept. 8 – Three Rivers Woman's Club – 1-3pm
Every month on the first Monday, the Three River's Women's Club meets at the Memorial Building. For information, visit threerivers.com.

Sept. 9 & Oct. 14 – Valley Oak SPCA Yappy Hour – 5-9pm
The Planning Mill Pizzeria will donate a portion of Yappy Hour proceeds to Valley Oak SPCA on the Second Tuesday of each month. Well-behaved, leashed pets are welcome on the patio at The Planning Mill, 514 E. Main St., Suite A, Visalia. For information, visit vospca.org.

Sept. 10, 17, 24 – Medicare Extra Help – 1-4pm
Every Wednesday, Tulare Senior Center offers free counseling for medicare beneficiaries. Help with prescription plans, claims, appeals and general information. This program is sponsored by Kings/Tulare AAA HICAP. Appointments available by calling 623-0199.

Sept. 10 – 50+ Rocks! Senior Center Fall Open House – 4-7pm
Hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, class exhibitions, door prizes and information booths with programs and services for older adults will be featured at the Visalia Senior Center. Admission is free. For info, call 713-4381.

Sept. 10 – Weight Management – 3-4:30pm
Family HealthCare Network offers a six-week course on weight management. For information, call 1-877-960-3426.

Sept. 11 – Consulado Sobre Ruedas – 10am-12pm
Mexican citizens can get Consular cards or Mexican passports at the Tulare Public Library. Make an appointment online at sre.gob.mx/fresno or call 1-877-639-4835.

Sept. 11 – Valley Oak Quilt Guild – 10am
The Valley Oak Guild will meet at Tulare Community Church, 1820 N. Gem in Tulare. Sandy Turner will present a lecture on "Sensational Borders." There will be a $5 charge for guests. On Friday, she will teach a class on a variation of Attic Windows. For information, visit valleyoakqg.org.

Sea Knight to Take Cellar Door Stage

Sea Knight will headline a 9:30pm 21+ Sound N Vision Foundation show at The Cellar Door in Downtown Visalia on Friday, September 19th.

Like the meaning behind the band name, Sea Knight's dynamic indie rock can be at once fierce and as soft as flight. Whether the San Francisco four-piece is pairing heavy drums with powerful wailing, or violin with haunting vocals, genuine emotion is at the foundation.

Sea Knight

On their 2014 debut EP, *Where Are You?*, Linda Sao (vocals/guitar), Cory Aboud (drums), Patrick Andrews (guitar) and Sami Hiromi (bass/violin) craft moody, atmospheric rock that swells and simmers with a poetic grace.

Also on the bill are Rose Pilgrims and Richfield. Both Sea Knight and Rose Pilgrims have members with Visalia roots, and Richfield features Visalia members.

Tickets are $7.

Visalia's Waiters Race 2014 Announces Call for Racers

Racers are being sought for the 21th Annual Waiters Race, presented by Visalia Breakfast Lions Club, on Thursday, September 25, beginning at 5:15pm.

People who work in the food service industry are welcome to register for this year's event. The competition is in four divisions: Women's Quick Service, Men's Quick Service, Women's Full Service and Men's Full Service. Racers will dash down Main Street with a tray in hand for a chance to take home $1,000. A total of $7,000 is up for grabs.

In the Quick Service division, racers will be equipped with a tray containing two paper cups of soda and a bun in a clamshell. The first to finish with all items on the tray wins that division. In the Full Service division, racers will be outfitted with a tray set up with two wine glasses and one glass bottle of wine. Again, the racer with all items on their tray wins.

There are four heats of eight racers and the top two of each heat will make it to the finals. There will be glass broken and hopes crashed as only one winner will take home the $1,000 first-place prize along with a gift certificate from Char-cu-te-rie, $500 for second place and $250 for third place in each division.

To register, visit WaitersRace.net, or email eventsvisaliaorg@gmail.com and request a registration form. The cost is $25. Registrations will be accepted until 11:59pm on Wednesday, September 24.

Major sponsors include Budweiser and Sequoia Beverage, The California Restaurant Association, The Vintage Press, A & W, Valley Business Bank, Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Momentum Broadcasting and the *Visalia Times-Delta*.

Fair

Continued from p. 17

wristbands are available for $20 prior to September 10, allowing unlimited one-day carnival rides. Wristbands will be available during the fair for $30 each.

Fair food has gone extreme this year, with new booths and fun new menu items. The 2014 fair now offers handmade garlic pretzels, deep-fried cheesecake, 30 flavors of soft-serve ice cream, deep-fried mac and cheese, red velvet and banana cream funnel cakes, ribeye steak sandwiches, bacon-wrapped turkey leg, and salmon burgers, to name a few.

Exhibit halls will feature judged displays of handiwork by Tulare County residents, including photography, fine art, quilts, bonsai, ceramics and clothing. Beer and winemakers can also compete for the prized blue ribbon.

Admission is $8 for adults; $5 for children ages 6-12. Seniors 62 and older are admitted for $5 on Senior Day, Friday, September 12, sponsored by Tulare Regional Medical Center. Hours are Wednesday, 11am to midnight; Thursday and Friday, school tours 9am to 3pm. Thursday open to the public 3pm to midnight; Friday, open to the public 11am to midnight; Saturday and Sunday, 11am to midnight. Carnival hours are Wednesday, 11am to 1pm; Thursday, 3-11pm.; Friday, noon to midnight; Saturday, noon to midnight; Sunday, noon to midnight.

For information, tickets or to enter one of the judged competitions, call the Tulare County Fair office at 686-4707 or visit www.tcfair.org.

Join us for Saturday Lunch
11:30 am - 2:00 pm
The Southern Pacific Depot Restaurant
Reservations • www.depotvisalia.com
(559) 732-8611
207 East Oak Avenue, Visalia

Cultural Historical Awareness Program Begins Sept. 17

Porterville College's Cultural Historical Awareness Program (C.H.A.P.) will begin its fall schedule on September 17 (Constitution Day) with "Does Treating Students Equally Mean Treating Them the Same?" with Kern Community College District Chancellor Sandra V. Serrano. The talk will take place from 11:30am to 12:30pm in the PC Theater. The event is open to the public and free to attend. (Contact the front desk upon your arrival for a free temporary parking permit.)

In observance of Constitution Day, Serrano will review and comment on the landmark court case, Brown v. Board of Education (1954). In that decision, the U.S. Supreme Court concluded that "separate but equal" has no place in the field of education. In light of the current condition of public education and its compulsory status in the United States, does treating students equally mean treating them the same? Has the promise of Brown been fulfilled?

On Friday, September 19, there will be a talk titled "Intervention: The U.S. Military Attempts to Shape Mexico's Revolution, 1914 and 1916," by PC History Professor Jay Hargis, from 7 to 8pm in the PC Theater. The event is open to the public and free to attend. Parking permits will not be required for the event.

A century ago the U.S. initiated diplomatic and military action in Mexico to try to control the forces unleashed by the ten-year Mexican Revolution. Not unlike our intervention in Middle East conflicts today, the U.S. did not fully understand the issues, personalities, ideologies and history involved, and we were not successful then, and may be even less successful today.

The Porterville College C.H.A.P. was organized in 2002 to enhance students' awareness of certain important aspects of our society to which they may previously have had little or no exposure. A theme is chosen by C.H.A.P. members each school year, and faculty members across the campus are encouraged to integrate elements of that theme into their coursework. Additionally, a variety of field trips, guest speakers, panel discussions and videos are presented throughout the year and are all open to the public. For more information about C.H.A.P. call Richard Osborne at 791-2298.

Porterville College is located at 100 E. College Ave. in Porterville. For more information, visit www.portervillecollege.edu or call 791-2200.

Country music singer-songwriter Canaan Smith will headline a 7pm concert in Hanford Civic Park on Wednesday, September 10th. Smith, who was a contestant on "The Amazing Race," co-wrote the hit "Runaway" for country band Love and Theft.

It's a New Fair!

TULARE COUNTY FAIR
SEPTEMBER 10-14, 2014

Family 4-Pack Pass

Available at all local

Walgreens

through 9/9/14

Meet Buttercup "the Butter Cow"

BUY YOUR PRESALE
Carnival Ride Wristband
for only $20!

Available at all Vallarta Supermarkets!
Available through 9/9/14

www.TulareFair.org
for more info or call
559-686-4707
ONLINE TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

☆ HEADLINE ENTERTAINERS ☆
GRANDSTAND & BUDWEISER STAGE

$8 Adult Admission
$5 ages 6-12 | 5 and under FREE

SATURDAY BEFORE THE FAIR SEPTEMBER 6

GRANDSTAND
1st Annual Fair Kick-Off
CCPRA RODEO
TCFF Fundraiser
September 6 @7pm
$7 Presale/$10 @Gate
Grandstand $10 Presale/$15@Gate

BUDWEISER STAGE

METALACHI
September 10 @8pm
FREE with Fair Admission

GRANDSTAND

TRACTOR PULLS
September 11 @7pm
FREE with Fair Admission

BUDWEISER STAGE

MORRIS DAY & THE TIME
September 11 @8pm
FREE with Fair Admission

GRANDSTAND

MOTORCYCLE THRILL SHOW
September 12
@ 8:30pm
FREE with Fair Admission

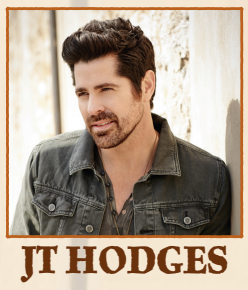
BUDWEISER STAGE

EDDIE MONEY
September 12 @8pm
FREE with Fair Admission

GRANDSTAND

DEMOLITION DERBY
September 13 @6pm
$15 gen. adm.$20 reserved

BUDWEISER STAGE



JT HODGES
September 13 @8pm
FREE with Fair Admission

GRANDSTAND

GRAN JARIPEO-BAILE
September 14 @4pm
Ticketed Event

BUDWEISER STAGE

TOWER OF POWER EST. 1968

TOWER OF POWER
September 14 @8pm
FREE with Fair Admission

Budweiser